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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a complete ban on smoking in restaurants, bars, and other public places in the CNMI?

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INSIDE



Spitzer Resigns

In a startlingly swift fall from grace, Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned Wednesday after getting caught in a call-girl scandal.

NATION...Page 22



Flu Outbreak

Hong Kong ordered more than half a million students to stay home for two weeks because of a flu outbreak.

ASIA...Page 24



Singing Stars

Erika Tubera and Mary Antoinette Alovera blew away the competition to bag the championship in the Saipan Singing Superstars competition.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 29

Tinian students haul medals in language tilt. PAGE 7
Atalig: Don't use Rota DPW as a scapegoat. PAGE 9

Rice prices soar by at least \$2

Next shipment of rice will be even more costly



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Leo Friel buys a sack of rice at a retail store in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Stores on the island have reported that their prices of rice have gone up or are expected to go up by at least \$2 due to the increase in wholesale prices.

Ex-College of Marshall Islands prexy helps NMC

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The troubled Northern Marianas College got a much-needed boost early this week with the arrival of a former college president that helped his school regain accreditation.



Hess

Saipan Tuesday and was part of a briefing team NMC president Carmen Fernandez assembled

at the Legislature yesterday that updated lawmakers on the steps the college has been doing to get itself out of show-cause status.

"I'm optimistic in the leadership I've seen from president

See EX-COLLEGE on Page 4

Iraq costs US \$12B a month

By CHARLES J. HANLEY
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The flow of blood may be ebbing, but the flood of money into the Iraq war is steadily rising, new analyses show. In 2008, its sixth year, the war will cost approximately \$12 billion a

month, triple the "burn" rate of its earliest years, Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz and co-author Linda J. Bilmes report in a new book.

Beyond 2008, working with "best-case" and "realistic-moderate" scenarios, they project

See IRAQ on Page 4

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Victor Pangelinan used to buy a 50-lbs sack of rice for \$21.99. These days, he buys it for \$23.99—a hefty \$2 increase in just a month's time.



MARINE MAMMAL STRANDINGS

David Schofield, Pacific region marine mammal stranding response coordinator for the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, right, guides students from Northern Marianas Academy and other volunteers in carefully transporting Division of Fish and Wildlife's Mike Tenorio, who is acting as a stranded dolphin, into the shade behind Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday morning. The event was a mock scenario and training to better enable responses to marine mammal strandings on local shores.

'Miura extradition may drag on for months'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The extradition hearing for Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura in the CNMI Superior Court may drag on for one to two more months.

Mark Hanson, one of Miura's three lawyers on Saipan, made the prediction yesterday after he and co-counsel William Fitzgerald, along with

RELATED NEWS
Fitial: Japanese media not crazy but very aggressive.

PAGE 3

chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield and assistant attorney general Mike Nisperos, emerged from

See MIURA on Page 4



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Maddie Santos – age 8



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Fitial: Japanese media not crazy but aggressive

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he finds the visiting Japanese media covering the extradition case against Kazuyoshi Miura not "crazy" but merely concerned and aggressive.

At the governor's barbecue party for the Japanese media, held at a pavilion in front of Ada Gym in Susupe Wednesday night, a Japanese TV reporter asked Fitial if he finds the Japanese reporters "crazy" due to the manner with which they have been gathering news in the Miura case.

"No, no, no! I don't find you crazy. That's not the right word to use," replied the governor, eliciting laughter from the media. "I find you to be very, very concerned. And also aggressive. And I respect [that] because I, too, I am very aggressive," the governor told the smiling reporter.

At the start of the party, Fitial expressed surprise that only about 30 Japanese reporters, photographers, and cameramen were there.

The governor emphasized that the party was strictly social, cultural and has no political overtone.

"I just want to clarify one thing. Tonight's function is not official. It's social," Fitial stressed.

He said he had asked press

'No wholesale Cabinet shakeup'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Fitial administration is not mulling any wholesale changes to the Cabinet, on the heels of former congressman Clyde K. Norita's appointment as the new Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary Charles P. Reyes said he sees only the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs post that needs to be filled after former DCCA Secretary Daisy Bier Villagomez opted to go back to the Northern Marianas College.

"I do not expect many changes. I believe only a few other changes may be made, if any. We do have a vacancy for DCCA Secretary, which we wish to fill in the near future. The vacancy was created when Daisy Bier Villagomez [former DCCA Secretary] resumed her employment with NMC last year," he said.

Reyes said Villagomez's former deputy, Melvin Faisao, is now serving in an acting capacity over at DCCA and will do so until an appointment is made with Senate confirmation.

"We will make announcements after a decision is made and communicated to a new appointee willing to serve," he said.

In a statement announcing

secretary Charles Reyes Jr. on Wednesday morning to give the media the signed copy of the governor's arrest warrant for Miura's extradition.

Signing the warrant that morning, the chief executive said, allowed the media to get his decision earlier that day so they can communicate that to their country or to their offices.

"I want to explain the reason why I signed the warrant this morning because I received a lot of concerns from the media that it is not timely for me to sign the warrant because I had originally decided that I will be signing it this evening," he said. "But I guess I was just so happy to be with you, all of you. I wanted to sign this so all of you will be here."

He said he should have stuck to his original decision to sign the warrant that night because that will guarantee that every single one of the media will be at the party.

"So I was right. But never mind me being right. It was the right thing to do for me to sign the warrant this morning. I am somewhat disappointed that my media friends are not here, only few of you are here. But I am very, very happy that some of you are here," he said.

"I want all of you to take a moment out of your very busy time to enjoy Saipan with the governor and my staff together," he added.

A male Japanese reporter

asked what was the purpose of the party and the food and whether it's cultural.

"You are correct. This is cultural. As the governor, as the head of this country, I am very, very thankful for your contribution. And this is cultural. Whenever somebody treats me good or gives me something good, I always reciprocate. This is strictly cultural," Fitial replied.

There were a lot of local food served at the party but

only a few Japanese media members ate. Most of the reporters and crew of TV stations immediately left after the governor's interview.

Those who stayed were mostly from the print media. They tried the local food and chatted with the governor for a couple of hours.

"What some of us did was very rude. It is embarrassing. The party was purely cultural and social thing. And the govern-

nor was very clear on that from the start," one visiting reporter told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said some reporters are very much concerned about media ethics, that's why they did not eat.

"But this is Saipan! We should respect their culture, too," he added.

One member of a TV crew said he will apologize to the governor on behalf of their staff.

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IRAQ*From Page 1*

the Iraq and Afghan wars, including long-term U.S. military occupations of those countries, will cost the U.S. budget between \$1.7 trillion and \$2.7 trillion - or more - by 2017.

Interest on money borrowed to pay those costs could alone add \$816 billion to that bottom line, they say.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has done its own projections and comes in lower, forecasting a cumulative cost by 2017 of \$1.2 trillion to \$1.7 trillion for the two wars, with Iraq generally accounting for three-quarters of the costs.

Variations in such estimates stem from the sliding scales of assumptions, scenarios and budget items that are counted. But whatever the estimate, the cost will be huge, the auditors of the Government Account-

ability Office say.

In a Jan. 30 report to Congress, the GAO observed that the U.S. will be committing "significant" future resources to the wars, "requiring decision makers to consider difficult trade-offs as the nation faces an increasing long-range fiscal challenge."

These numbers don't include the war's cost to the rest of the world. In Iraq itself, the 2003 U.S.-led invasion - with its devastating air bombardments - and the looting and arson that followed, severely damaged electricity and other utilities, the oil industry, countless factories, hospitals, schools and other underpinnings of an economy.

No one has tried to calculate the economic damage done to Iraq, said spokesman Niels Buenemann of the International Monetary Fund, which closely tracks national economies. But millions of Iraqis have been left without jobs, and hundreds of thousands of professionals, managers and other mid-

dle-class citizens have fled the country.

In their book, "The Three Trillion Dollar War," Stiglitz, of Columbia University, and Bilmes, of Harvard, report the two wars will have cost the U.S. budget \$845 billion in 2007 dollars by next Sept. 30, end of fiscal year 2008, assuming Congress fully funds Bush administration requests. That counts not just military operations, but embassy costs, reconstruction and other war-related expenses.

That total far surpasses the \$670 billion in 2007 dollars the Congressional Research Service says was the U.S. price tag for the 12-year Vietnam War.

Although American military and Iraqi civilian casualties have declined in recent months, the rate of spending has shot up. A fully funded 2008 war budget will be 155 percent higher than 2004's, the CBO reports.

The reasons are numerous: the "surge" of additional U.S. units into Iraq; rising fuel costs; fattened bonuses

to attract re-enlistments; and particularly the need to "reset," that is, repair or replace worn-out, destroyed or damaged military equipment. Almost \$17 billion is appropriated this year for advanced armored vehicles to protect troops against roadside bombs.

Looking ahead, both the CBO and Stiglitz-Bilmes construct two scenarios, one in which U.S. troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan drop sharply and early - to 30,000 by late 2009 for the CBO, and to 55,000 by 2012 for Stiglitz-Bilmes - and a second in which the drawdown is more gradual.

Significantly, the two studies view different time frames, the CBO calculating possible costs met in the next 10 years, while Stiglitz and Bilmes also include costs incurred during that period but paid for later, such as equipment replaced in post-2017 budgets.

This factor figures most in the category of veterans' medical care and disability payments, where the CBO

foresees \$9 billion to \$13 billion in costs by 2017. Stiglitz and Bilmes, meanwhile, project \$422 billion to \$717 billion in costs over the lifetime of soldiers who by 2017 are wounded or otherwise mentally or physically disabled by the wars.

"The CBO is only looking 10 years out on everything," Bilmes noted in an interview.

For its part, a CBO critique suggested that Bilmes and Stiglitz might be overstating the expense of treating veterans' brain injuries, a costly category.

The two economists say their calculations are conservative, because they don't encompass many "hidden" items in the U.S. budget. Their basic projections also exclude the potentially huge debt-service cost - on which CBO approximately agrees - and the cost to the U.S. economy of global oil prices that have quadrupled since 2003, an increase analysts blame partly on the Iraq upheaval.

MIURA*From Page 1*

the office of Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona where they had a chamber conference.

Hanson told the media that they and the prosecution agreed that the next hearing would remain on Wednesday at 1:30pm.

The judge called the lawyers to a conference to discuss the hearing schedule, now that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had issued the arrest warrant for the extradition of the 60-year-old Miura.

"What we have agreed to with the court and with the prosecution is to have Mr. Miura come in for an initial appearance under this new warrant. And what we've agreed is that it will

remain next Wednesday, the 19th, which was the date that was scheduled for status conference on the fugitive warrant," Hanson said.

Instead of a status conference, the hearing will be turned into an initial appearance on the governor's warrant, he added.

"So there won't be any hearings between now and next Wednesday at 1:30pm," he said.

In the meantime, Hanson said what he and co-counsels Fitzgerald and Bruce Berline would do is to go over the governor's warrant with Miura.

The lawyer said the extradition package is about 40 pages and contains a lot of documents.

"We want to make sure that he [Miura] understands everything in the governor's warrant," he said.

Hanson said that, on Wednesday, Judge Manglona is expected to advise Miura of his right to legal counsel and basically tell him about the procedures.

On that day a briefing schedule and a hearing for Miura's petition for writ of habeas corpus may be set out.

"There will be a deadline for us to file a writ and we are asking for a couple of weeks depending upon everybody's schedule. So she [Manglona] may say, 'Okay, within two or three weeks of next Wednesday, you have to file your petition for writ of habeas corpus,'" Hanson said.

The lawyer said the prosecution will then have an opportunity to respond, Miura will reply, and there will be a hearing.

"This whole process could take a

month. It could take two months because of the busy schedule of everybody," he said.

In the meantime, Hanson said, the proceedings in California will continue.

"Anytime before we go in on our hearing for a writ, something could happen in California. They could quash the warrant, which would make the basis for all of this to go away," he said.

If California quashes the warrant, Hanson said, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will most likely recall his request for extradition, Gov. Fitial will recall his warrant for extradition, and the court will then dismiss the case.

With respect to Miura's legal fight in Los Angeles, Hanson said their co-

counsel, Mark J. Geragos, has not filed a motion yet because they were still finalizing an affidavit in Japan.

Hanson said this affidavit is very important to support Miura's contention of double jeopardy in California and also the habeas corpus petition on Saipan.

"But first and foremost, it will support the motion to quash the warrant on double jeopardy grounds in California court," he said.

Once the affidavit is finalized, which, according to Hanson, would likely be yesterday, it will be sent to Geragos.

On talks that some enterprising people are selling T-shirts on the island to support Miura's double jeopardy position, the lawyer said he heard about it, but that their legal team has nothing to do with it.

Senate Vice President Felix T. Mendiola told Fernandez that he and his colleagues are willing to help.

"I pledge myself, and I'm sure it's shared by my colleagues, I'm here for you. I'm thankful that we met today because I believe education is our future. We can't set this aside in anyway. I'm willing to work with Rep. [David] Apatang and everyone else to make this happen," he said.

Mendiola said that NMC should go back the Legislature once they computed the money they need to be able gain full accreditation.

"What we really need to do now is for NMC to give us the ballpark figure, how much are we talking about. Huddle up as well, with a representative from you, and work together for the needed resolution at the soonest possible time."

EX-COLLEGE*From Page 1*

Fernandez. I'm optimistic with the administrative team that she assembled and today I was very pleased with some of the expression of support from the members of the Senate and the House," said Hess in an interview immediately after the briefing.

He said the CMI and NMC cases are quite alike in that both have significant facility needs, with some relating to health and safety.

"But more importantly, they were related to educational quality and the ability to deliver programs well. And that requires a significant commitment on the part of the government and all the friends and supporters of the Northern Marianas College," said Hess.

However, unlike NMC, the Marshall Islands college went through three cycles of show-cause, unlike NMC, which only has one chance to get out of show-cause.

"[Unfortunately] the accreditation has changed and that's no longer possible. There's only one cycle of show-cause so NMC doesn't get a second chance at show-cause and they have to make it right the first time," he said.

The former president of the CMI said it would now be up to the government and the community to help NMC get out of show-cause in half a year's time.

"The advice is in many ways complicated but the most important thing is everyone in the community—the public, the government—understand the urgency of this particular action by the accrediting agency.

"The future of the college is in the balance and a positive response will lead to a bright new future for Northern Marianas College, but there's no tomorrow if a positive response does not come forward in the next six to nine months," said Hess.

Fernandez said she is very thankful and honored for the assistance Hess has extended to NMC.

"We will be working closely with him on this process. As you know, he's a highly respected expert in the field. He's a retired president. He is credited for taking a college out of accreditation and regaining accreditation. And, of course, he was brought to the CMI to turn the college around and, in fact, he brought the college out of show-cause and the CPI is now in warning," she said.

Fernandez earlier appealed to lawmakers to fast-track legislation that would

help NMC fix its accreditation woes.

"We can do it. NMC can do it. We just don't have the time. So we need to mobilize help... This is part of the reason why Dr. Hess is working with us because hopefully by this afternoon, or before he leaves, we'll have the action plan as to how we can make this all happen within a very, very limited time," she said.

Fernandez was especially concerned about the short amount of time left for NMC to save itself from being unaccredited.

"We have only have six months to provide evidence that we resolved all of these concerns and, as he [Hess] mentioned with regards to the new facility, we have to give them a funding plan that's solid before October. So, all of these needs are absolutely right now," she said.

shipping companies raise their fuel surcharge cost, the prices of commodities goes up as well.

"Wholesalers initiate the price increase when they get their shipments," Maravilla said.

Alpex Wholesale agrees that fuel surcharge is the main culprit of the price increase.

"Since last year, it has been going up almost every other month. Freight cost, just last year, was \$3,600; now it is at least \$4,000 per shipment," Alpex said.

The wholesaler added that the price increase covers the cost of fuel surcharge and labor cost for the rice production companies.

Yaong Corporation said that it's the shortage of rice from suppliers that

RICE*From Page 1*

worried. I'm beyond worried; now I'm just scared."

Stores on the island have reported that their prices of rice have gone up or are expected to go up by at least \$2 due to the increase in wholesale prices.

San Jose Mart store manager Ik Yoon said the store used to sell its 50-lbs bag of Calrose rice for \$19.99 each. It was not until last month that the store was forced to raise its price to \$21.99.

He explained that because the price of rice is constantly going up, customers resort to buying much smaller sacks as opposed to the bigger 50-pounder.

"I don't blame them. Salaries are low but the price of commodities keep on going up. How can we even save money?" Yoon asked.

Han Nam Market, which used to sell 50-lbs Golden Phoenix rice for \$19.95 each, had also raised its price to \$23.95 early last month.

Store manager Mr. Ju said they've just received another notice from their wholesaler informing them that the price of rice will once again increase in its upcoming shipment.

"So it's better if you buy rice now because the price will rise again this coming container," Ju said.

The store's wholesalers include Pacific Grocers, Kesy International Trading, and Luen Fung.

Kagman Market also reported that

they too had just received a notice from their wholesaler, Kesy International Trading, on Wednesday that the price of rice will increase in its next shipment.

The store said the new wholesale price will be at \$24.50 each, which means the retail price will even be higher.

Kagman Market used to sell its 50-lbs Royal Umbrella Jasmine rice at \$20.99 each. Just earlier last month, it was forced to raise its price to \$23.99 each.

Payless Supermarket's 50-lbs Calrose Diamond G was earlier sold for \$18.95. Last month the price rose to \$21.00 each.

Carmen Safeway store manager Eli Maravilla explained that every time the

forces them to raise their prices.

According to recent *Asian Business* news, the causes of the shortages and high prices of rice are diverse, and vary from country to country.

They include natural disasters or adverse weather; high fuel prices, which add to transport costs; hoarding and smuggling of rice and wheat to take advantage of higher prices across national borders; and, in some countries, a shortage of electricity that is reportedly hampering mills from functioning at full capacity.

Resident Robert Travilla sees a bright side to the price increase.

"The price will totally scare off the people from buying them. But you know, it's about time that everybody starts going on a diet," he said.

TO ADDRESS SPIKE IN ROBBERY, BURGLARY CASES

Patrol, criminal investigation to be strengthened

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly-appointed Department

of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio Norita said his administration will strengthen patrol and investigations sections to

address the increasing number of robbery and burglary cases on the island.

In an interview with *Saipan*



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MIURA WARRANT

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, together with Attorney General Matthew Gregory, shows the signed arrest warrant for the extradition of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura to the Japanese media during a barbecue party for the visiting journalists at the Minatchom AtDAO Pavilion Wednesday night.

DYS site up and running

In an effort to better serve CNMI residents, the Division of Youth Services has finally gotten its own website up and running.

The new website includes updated information on the types of services the division provides to the community.

It also includes upcoming events and summaries of past events.

Information is also provided on how the CNMI goes about juvenile case processes and emergency procedures taken at the juvenile detention facility.

It is DYS' mission to promote the well-being of children, youth, families and the community as a whole.

DYS works with other agencies, organizations and the community to reduce child abuse, juvenile delinquency, youth violence, and drug problems.

The new website can be visited at <http://www.dys.gov.mp/>. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)



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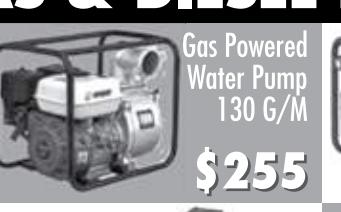
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Tribune, Norita said the patrol section and the criminal investigation bureau are the backbones of DPS, so that is where he is going to invest resources, manpower, and funding.

"We can get federal grants into these key units because these are the ones that have a direct impact on the community," he said.

Norita said patrol officers respond to crimes, they make the report, and their report goes to the criminal investigation bureau.

"We have a criminal investigation unit that handles 300 or 400 burglary in a year and there's like only one or two guys handling it. That's an overwhelming load!" the commissioner said.

He said they are now thinking of ways on how to approach the case overload problem.

"We need to look at the ones that are priority and address them in resources.

Augmenting is one of them but is not the only solution. There has to be a dedicated approach, a systematic approach to how we do this," Norita said.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. **Filing of application.** *Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laulau Bay Golf Resort Saipan*, (the "Applicant"), has filed its application with the Commonwealth Development Authority for a Qualifying Certificate under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, (4 CMC §3301, et seq.).

B. **Address.** The address of the Applicant is *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

C. **Proposed investment.** The Applicant proposes to invest approximately \$68.8 million to construct and operate a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golfcourse located at *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

D. **Benefits sought.** The Applicant is applying for tax relief provided by the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, (4 CMC §3301, et seq.) as follows:

Percentage requested:	Period requested:
-----------------------	-------------------

Nature of tax:

<u>Business Gross Revenue Tax Abatement</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years,</u>
<u>Corporate Income Tax Rebate</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years,</u>
<u>Excise Tax Abatement</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years,</u>
<u>Alcoholic Beverage Tax Abatement</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years,</u>
<u>Developer Infrastructure Tax Abatement</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>25 years.</u>

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant



ARC to celebrate Easter with egg hunt, decorating contest

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aqua Resort Club will have an "egg-citing" Easter celebration on March 23, as the Achugao hotel will have an egg hunt and an egg-decorating contest at its Costa Terrace Restaurant.

Restaurant manager Peter De Loyola said the hotel's Easter Sunday Brunch will feature the twin events, with the egg hunt commencing at 12:30pm.

The event will have two age groups—toddler division (5 years old and under) and children division (6-12 years old). De Loyola said winners will take home prizes from Aqua Resort and its generous sponsors.

The egg-decorating contest,

meanwhile, has already begun as children who dined the past two Sundays—March 2 and 9—have already picked up their special king-sized eggs to decorate as they please.

"Those who want to join the egg-decorating contest can bring it home and bring it back on the 23rd of March," said De Loyola.

He said other interested children only have to dine this Sunday, March 16, to be included in the egg-decorating contest, which is limited to the first 15 participants.

First prize in the egg-decorating contest is an overnight stay and one month free use of Aqua Resort's swimming pool. Second place gets a Light and Easy Lunch Buffet for two and

one month free use of the swimming pool, while the third place prize is one month free use of the swimming pool.

The Easter Sunday Brunch at Aqua Resort Club will be from 11am to 2pm and costs \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children.

Aqua Resort F&B sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa is inviting children and their parents to dine at the hotel this Easter Sunday.

"It's a fun place to be during Easter Sunday. So come all and enjoy," she said.

For more information about Aqua Resort's Easter Sunday Brunch and the egg hunt and egg-decorating contest, call 322-1234 and ask to be connected to the food and beverage department.

NMC could lose its E.Ed program if...

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College said it would likely lose its Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree program if the college's accreditation is terminated.

NMC president Carmen Fernandez explained that the accreditation of the college's Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education is dependent on the underlying institutional accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

"As such, the accreditation of the School of Education will likely discontinue if the ACCJC accreditation is terminated," Fernandez said.

In a letter to Fernandez, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges stated that they have approved re-accreditation of the college's four-year degree program in

elementary school education, based on the report submitted by an Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities member that was part of a team that visited the college.

The continued accreditation of NMC's four-year degree program for elementary school education was based on a series of accomplishments that the NMC School of Education has achieved.

The WASC letter also stated that in order for NMC to retain its accreditation from the ACS-CU for the bachelor's program, it will need to address "satisfactorily issues cited by the ACCJC and into compliance with ACCJC standards."

"We are focusing our efforts on overcoming the show-cause status, and as the letter from the senior commission indicates, NMC is making great strides toward reaching this goal," Fernandez said.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Aqua Resort Club restaurant manager Peter De Loyola poses with the king-sized eggs that children will decorate in the egg-decorating contest of the hotel's Easter Sunday Brunch set for March 23.

February 2008 Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Saipan Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Throughout February 2008, we collected 124 water samples in Saipan to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Of the 124 water tests, eighteen samples or 14.52% showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent (5%) of samples may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipelines). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did find these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

What happened? What was done? Look below for the specific village or streets where problems occurred in February 2008:

- **Koblerville** (As Gonno Rd., Potu Ct., Tinaktak Dr., Magisa Dr., Buchibuchi Dr.) The chlorine equipment malfunctioned during power outages. The repairs are now complete and treatment resumed.
- **Obyan** (Ladder Beach Ln., Naftan Rd., Flame Tree Rd., Obyan Beach Dr.) Treatment point was relocated back to original site after Water Task Force (WTF) Well Rehabilitation project was completed.
- **Susupe** (Texas Rd., Tekken St., Beach Rd., Chalan Hagoi) Ran out of chlorine cylinders (gas) earlier than anticipated. Treatment operators immediately replaced empty with a full chlorine cylinder. Chlorine treatment increased for disinfection process.
- **Chalan Laulau**: Ran out of chlorine cylinders (gas) earlier than anticipated. Treatment operators immediately replaced empty with a full chlorine cylinder. Chlorine treatment increased for disinfection process.
- **Dandan** (Tanduki Dr.) Treatment operators discovered the chlorine ejector for this water supply malfunctioned. Operators replaced the damaged chlorine ejector, set pumping rate and treatment resumed.
- **Upper MIHA Housing** (Sugar King Rd., Chalan Pale Arnold, Navy Hill Rd.) Tests indicate that there was proper chlorine levels in the water system, however, since the water system is in a non 24-hour area, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time in the distribution system. Chlorine treatment increased for disinfection process.
- **Sadog Tasi** (Sadog Tasi Dr., Pila Dr.) Tests indicate that generally there was proper chlorine levels in the water system, however, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time in the distribution system. Chlorine treatment increased for disinfection process.
- **Agag** (Santa Lourdes Rd.) Treatment operators discovered that the automatic switchover mechanism had failed and that the chlorine treatment to the Agag Reservoir had been interrupted. The pumping rate was reset and treatment resumed.

For more information, please contact Heidi Yelin, CUC Laboratory Manager, at 322-5140 or via email at: cuclabman@yahoo.com, or contact Mariano Iglesias, CUC Water Division Manager, at 235-7025 – 7032, or via email at: migleias@cucgov.net.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Tinian students haul medals in language tilt



The Tinian Elementary School students pose with their medals at the University of Guam.

All the hard work from after school and Saturday practice sessions, as well as the numerous parents-led fundraising events, paid off after the Tinian Elementary School students came home with five Gold, four Silver, and three Bronze Medals from the 5th Annual Chamorro

Language Competition held in Guam.

The competition was held on March 11 and was sponsored by the University of Guam as part of their Charter Day celebration.

The TES Colts winners in each category and the medals they won are as follows:

■ Spelling K-2nd:

- Kyle Hocog, Bronze
- Spelling 3rd-5th:
- Sere Ima Sanchez, Gold
- Story Telling - Elementary:
- Odorico San Nicolas: Silver
- Drawing K-2nd:
- Isa Rae Dela Cruz, Gold
- Romeo Shrestha, Silver
- Sophia Cruz, Bronze
- Drawing, 3rd-5th:

- Mikaela San Nicolas, Gold
- Zachariah Hofsneider, Silver
- Rudolfo Lazaro, Bronze
- Middle School Poetry (6th-8th)
- Ria Encia Borja - Silver
- Middle School Essay (6th-8th)
- Barcelina Basa - Gold
- Middle School Choral Read-

AGO says
autopsy not
needed on nun
who drowned

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There will be no autopsy needed on the 62-year-old Vietnamese nun who drowned at the beach in Chalan Kanoa Sunday night.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogomoro said yesterday that, according to the Attorney General's Office, an autopsy will not be conducted on Sr. Myriam Phan.

Ogomoro said further police investigation showed that Phan and a friend arrived at the Aquarius Beach Tower beach site at 5:30pm and went swimming.

Ogomoro said that between 6pm to 6:30pm, the victim's friend returned to shore where she waited for Phan.

When Phan did not return, the friend tried to locate her. The friend asked for help from several individuals, but they were unsuccessful. The police were then called.

Police received a report about an overdue swimmer at the beach site located behind Aquarius.

DPS Boating Safety Unit officers, and officers from DPS Fire Division Search and Rescue Unit and Patrol Unit immediately responded to the site. A U.S. Coast Guard Hilo chopper also assisted.

After hours of searching or at 12:30am Monday, the chopper located the victim in the ocean between Saipan and Tinian.

Phan, of the Sisters of Good Shepherd, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center Monday at 3:55am.

ing (6th-8th)

- Tinian Elementary School 6th Graders - Gold

The trip was made possible with the help of parents and the PTSAs officers, Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas (\$6,000 check), the PSS Federal Programs (official chaperones' travel accommodations and students' subsistence allowance) and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino (38 round-trip ferry boat tickets).

Other sponsors were Tinian Ice & Water, FPA Construction Sup-

ply, JC Café, Island Store, Long Feng Store, Kerida's Restaurant, Mr. & Mrs. Kwon (Chacha Poker), and Kimberly Hinds.

The students also acknowledged the help of Jeanette H. Borja, PSS student transportation crew and their leaders, Charley Kenty and Steve Pangalinan, Erica and the crew at AK Toyota Rent A Car - (Guam); their Chamorro Language teachers: Angie Fitial, Esther Basa, and Joanne Dela Cruz; Julian Hofsneider, Ryan Dela Cruz, Kenny Cruz, Julie San Nicolas, Isabel Kiyoshi, Carla San Nicolas, Freddy Hofsneider and Herbert Hocog. (PR)

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KHS now offers electronics course

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Kagman High School has developed a new elective in its existing courses that would allow its students to explore careers in the electronics and engineering field.

Through the initiative of Kagman High principal Alfred Ada, the first basic electronics course is now being offered to provide students practical knowledge in the field of electronics and help them decide whether or not to pursue engineering related careers.

Ada said it is part of his vision to provide other classes for the KHS stu-

dents to explore.

He was only recently allowed to make it happen as the biggest drawback was the funds needed to get the program started and to find a teacher who will teach the course.

Ada said that during a class observation, he discovered that one substitute teacher for mathematics was incorporating "a lot of engineering and electronics into the subject."

Benjie Ladringan now teaches the electronics course.

"He has vast knowledge in engineering and electronics. I know he's the right person to teach this class," said Ada.

The school was recently

allowed to use \$8,000 in vocational funds for the new course. The voc-ed funds allowed KHS to purchase consumable funds.

There are currently 18 students enrolled in the elective course. A club was also formed so that students not taking the course may take part in whatever activities the engineering course has in store for its students.

Out of the 18 students in the course, there is only one female who has showed interest in engineering.

Sixteen-year-old Ashley Fujihira runs the engineering club as its classroom president.

The course teaches the fundamentals of electronics

as it applies to everyday life. Students learn to read circuit diagrams, convert alternating current to direct current, assemble an AM radio, build and use a multi-tester, learn how to solder printed circuit board, among other skills.

Ada said he is proud that the school was able to push through with this effort to create an elective that the students can take seriously and "just have fun with it."

The CNMI has been under tremendous pressure to provide vocational training to its resident workers so they could lessen their dependence on alien workers, who are the ones mostly doing these types of jobs.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 14, 2000

High oil prices seen to drive cost of basic goods up

Although increasing prices of petroleum products remain confined to gas pumps, airline tickets and transportation costs, their effects will soon translate to further contraction of the CNMI economy in terms of higher commodity prices. Northern Marianas distributors of items imported from the mainland United States and other countries are starting to feel the pinch of skyrocketing oil prices, reporting a sharp increase in the cost of moving the commodities from off and within the island.

Appointment power faces legal challenge

A major legal battle is brewing between the Senate and the executive branch over the extent of the legislative authority to confirm appointments made by the governor, ranging from members of boards and commissions as well as departments heads. Senators have authorized their legal counsel Steve Woodruff to represent the upper house in any legal actions seeking determination of the constitutionality of its advice and consent authority granted by law as well as the extent and limits of the governor's appointment power.

User fee collection shrinks

In what appears to be a validation of the projected drop in apparel production due to the billion-dollar class action suit against garment manufacturers and buyers, the CNMI government reported a sharp decline in user fee collection last year. A report from the Department of Finance disclosed that user fee collection from garment export certification fell to \$9.7 million during the third quarter of the Fiscal Year 1999 compared with \$11.5 million in previous year.

MARCH 14, 2001

Lights off at Tinian Airport

Has the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation gone berserk? The corporation's recent disconnection sprees have included Tinian International Airport which placed safety of air transport passengers in peril, according to Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios. Mr. Palacios said CUC's action could have resulted in a major air disaster had the airport's stand-by generators failed to promptly kick-on.

Workers' ordeal in paradise

When Mang Pedro decided to leave the Philippines to work on Saipan in the early 1980s, he carried strong hopes to one day realize his dream of comfortable life - for himself and for the family he would have. Mang Pedro - not his real name - landed a job at the Sablan Construction Company. Armed with solid determination and the skills he had mastered for years, he slowly earned the management's trust which kept him for almost 21 years.

Excise tax drop 14%

Excise tax collected by the Customs Division totaled a paltry \$4.8 million last month, representing a 14 percent decline from January's \$5.6 million. However, the agency was quick to point out that the \$800,000 shortfall was due to the 28-day calendar of February than anything else.

MARCH 14, 2002

It is cyanide or not?

As government agencies pool efforts to prevent a chemical spill due to deteriorating storage containers at Marpi and Lower Base, the closure of the Marpi radar site has led to speculations as to what these chemicals might be. Efforts made by the Saipan Tribune to find out what chemicals may be contained in the deteriorating storage containers were in vain, as officials after officials denied knowledge of what these chemicals are.

NMI's own Disneyland?

Imagine an amusement-cultural complex in the perimeters of the American Memorial Park in the likes of Disneyland, complete with a man-made lake in the center and an underwater aquarium comparable to that of Guam and Hawaii. Now imagine separate but integrated facilities and buildings surrounding that man-made lake, such as a museum-learning center, replicas of Chamorro, Carolinian, and Micronesian villages, a performing arts-cum-convention center, and a coral reef center.



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Atalig: Don't use Rota DPW as a scapegoat

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works on Rota has expressed disappointment with Rota Municipal Council councilman Vicente M. Calvo's decision to publicize his concerns regarding the Tatachog landfill.

In a letter to Calvo, resident director Martin S. Atalig said that Calvo's decision to air his concerns "in the manner you elected was callous and a blatant insult to my department and staff."

He characterized Calvo's method as "a way to further his political career."

He said: "DPW has consistently kept an open-door policy to all government agencies and is ready and willing to discuss and resolve issues concerning the department's operations."

Calvo had shared with the *Saipan Tribune* his letter to Rota DPW where he said that the Tatachog dumpsite appears to be "abandoned and neglected."

In that letter, Calvo said the Tatachog dump "used to be manned so that people could be guided where to dump [their trash]. Now that it is unmanned, people dump uncontrollably anywhere around the site, including the secondary access

(Old Japanese railroad) road."

Atalig said that the Tatachog dumpsite is neither abandoned nor neglected. He said that despite having "a severe lack of funding for equipment, maintenance, fuel, and personnel, DPW staff has shown exceptional dedication, regularly pushing improperly disposed debris to the proper designated disposal areas."

Atalig said his staff works in the sun and stench of the landfill no less than twice a week. "This is hazardous work and my staff is willing to do what is necessary without the benefit of the hazard pay they deserve," Atalig said.

He added that DPW staff's contribution to the island of Rota should be appreciated and not insulted by an insinuation that the department "is not doing everything in its power to provide for the safety and sanitation" of the island.

Within the past two weeks, Solid Waste Management director Blas P. Mafnas and technical consultant Steve Himey paid a visit to the island to perform a site inspection of the Tatachog landfill.

According to Atalig, the two "were very impressed with how Rota DPW's ground maintenance crew maintained

the perimeter."

"Their approval of our continued maintenance of the Rota landfill proves that Rota DPW was not neglecting or abandoning its obligation to provide such maintenance," said Atalig.

He said that Mafnas and Himey are currently working to assist Rota DPW "by finalizing their assessment and recommendations in order to help bring the landfill to full EPA compliance."

Atalig said the department expects Calvo to do his part as a Rota Municipal Council member to help improve the Rota landfill.

"The responsibility of improving the Tatachog landfill does not fall on DPW alone. It is the responsibility of all regulatory, maintenance, and enforcement agencies as well as the general public to promote safe and responsible waste disposal at the Tatachog landfill," said Atalig.

He added that it is "no good to look for scapegoats for the island's problems. ... We must all work together and do our part to find and share resources ... I invite you as a member of the Rota Municipal Council to create solutions instead of problems," Atalig said.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Keep vaccinating

Despite many studies discrediting its views, a vocal group of parents and lobbyists insist that vaccines cause autism, a disorder characterized by impaired social, emotional and communications skills. Those making the argument present heart-wrenching stories before courts and the media in the hope that someone, somewhere, will believe their theories and use them to cure their children. A recent case seems to have added fuel to their fire, but it should not dissuade parents from giving their children life-saving vaccines.

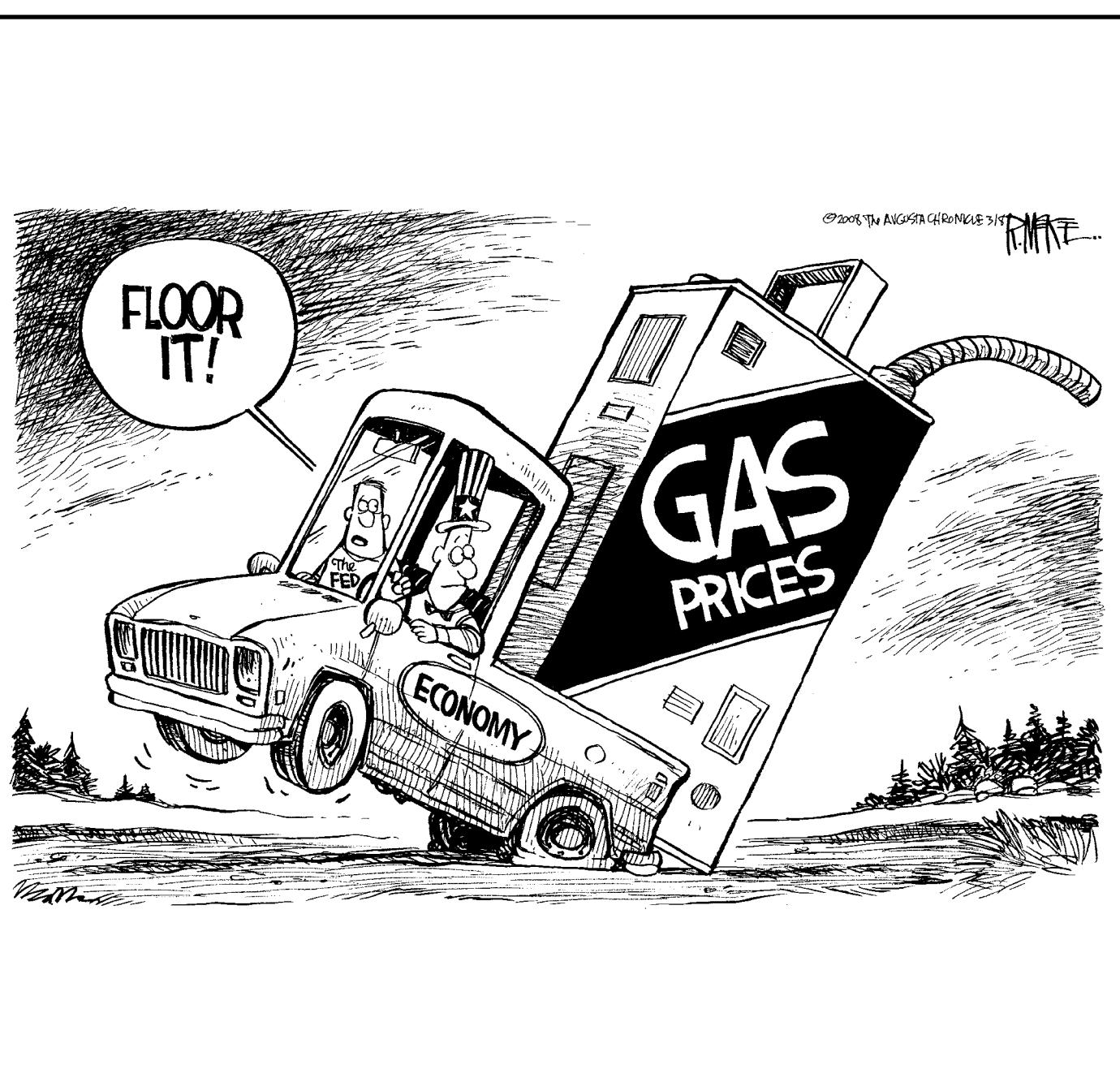
In the case, a 1 1/2-year-old girl suffered a fever and other adverse reactions after receiving vaccine shots. Over the next few months, her brain function regressed, and she developed symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. Government officials have agreed to compensate her family because, they said, the vaccines had aggravated a previously unknown underlying mitochondrial disorder, a rare condition that can deprive the brain of energy.

Anti-vaccine groups have cited the case as evidence that vaccines cause autism, despite public health officials', clinicians' and researchers' emphatic statements otherwise. For over a decade, activists have been arguing that vaccines, and particularly a mercury-containing preservative used in some vaccines, cause autism. This theory is largely promoted because autism symptoms usually appear around the age when children are first immunized. Since 2001, however, no vaccines (except some flu vaccines) routinely recommended for young children have been manufactured with the mercury preservative. Since then, autism rates have not slowed. Rather than abandoning their suspicions, some parents now implicate other aspects of vaccination, such as the simultaneous administering of multiple shots, another practice that researchers say is safe.

The science behind this recent case is tenuous, as there haven't been any studies that clearly prove causation between vaccines and mitochondrial disorders or between mitochondrial disorders and autism. Some researchers argue that the girl's mitochondrial disorder would have been triggered anyway by another stressor such as a common illness or fever, and may have become more severe had she contracted any of the dangerous diseases against which she was vaccinated. These diseases, after all, still afflict American children. Just last month in San Diego, a measles outbreak occurred among unvaccinated children.

Autism is a tragic disorder, but no one knows what causes it or even how to test for it biologically. Given how little is known about autism—and the fact that no science has been able to connect it to vaccines—parents should continue to protect their children against known, preventable risks: the deadly diseases that vaccines keep at bay.

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What \$5,500 an hour buys

By HAROLD MEYERSON
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Eliot Spitzer's fall from grace (and from power) raises a host of serious concerns, not least our ongoing and often ludicrous conflation of the personal and the political in matters of morals. But flawed mortal that I am, I confess I keep coming back to one detail as this gloomy tale unfolds: \$5,500.

That's what Spitzer and his fellow numbered clients were shelling out per hour if they booked the Emperors Club VIP's top-of-the-line providers.

I've given serious thought to this over the past day, and I'm not sure that I've even had a sexual fantasy that, if actualized, would be worth \$5,500 an hour. Of course, fantasies can involve particular, unattainable persons, and an economist might say that if the client has an obsession that only a certain provider could satisfy, that could drive the price way up.

But that doesn't seem to have been the case for Client 9. Of all the details in the transcript of the back-and-forth between Spitzer and the Emperors Club's traffic manager, the one I find most mind-boggling is when Spitzer, just before he hooks up with his hooker, asks to be reminded of what the lady looks like.

He's paying \$4,300 for this experience and he needs a refresher on her looks? Four grand and change and he can't remember whether he booked tall or short, blond or brunette? We're not talking obsession here. We're talking positional goods.

Positional goods are those commodities that are more valuable than their run-of-the-mill counterparts because a special status attaches to them, since only a select few can have them. Since the Web sites on which prostitutes advertise indicate that the average hourly rate is around \$300, the Emperors Club maximum rate, which is roughly 18 times higher, could be justified by the particular appeals and skills of its hookers. I haven't conducted empirical research on this one, but let me just say: I doubt it.

I suspect that what makes a prostitute worth \$5,500 an hour is that she costs \$5,500 an hour. The value here doesn't dictate the price. The price, rather, dictates the value. These women are available only to the wealthy; the ability to hire them, like the ability to live on Fifth Avenue overlooking Central Park, means that you've

made it. And even if your hour turns out to be a bit disappointing, that's okay, because \$5,500 doesn't really mean anything to you—which just means you've REALLY made it.

And there, I suppose, is the thrill. The power of being able to command the world's priciest hooker, like the power of owning the world's priciest real estate, could be a turn-on in itself. The power of dropping thousands and not even remembering what type of woman you've booked: Boy, are you ever something! Whether or not you're getting one terrific woman, the transaction alone confirms that you're one terrific dude.

In fairness, Spitzer clearly thought he was also buying one other valuable commodity: secrecy. At those rates, everyone could be trusted to keep quiet. Spitzer, however, clearly forgot what he'd learned in Prosecutions 101, which is that nothing intrigues a prosecutor more than unexplained silence. Federal investigators told *The New York Times* that they were looking into the governor's cash withdrawals on the suspicion that he might be paying off a blackmailer. (Of course, after the railroading that the Bush-Rove Justice Department gave to Don Siegelman, the Democratic former governor of Alabama, currently incarcerated for what look to be no more than misdemeanors, no such investigation is itself above suspicion.) Without Spitzer's "cover-up"—which in this instance simply meant paying in cash—the crime, such as it was, would have gone undetected.

Clients 1 through 8 were surely in need of some secrecy, too, if not quite so patently as New York's governor. Men don't usually print their patronage of prostitutes on their business cards. But \$5,500 buys a lot more than secrecy, and a lot more than sex. It buys a confirmation of status and power. It has all the positional upside of conspicuous consumption, though it remains—or is supposed to remain—inconspicuous.

There are real tragedies in this case, of course. And, politically, I suppose, the whole affair is one more argument against continuing tax cuts to the rich, even if Spitzer did invest his money here rather than in China.

But I keep coming back to price, even though I know it purchased a positional good. \$5,500, huh? I need to work on my fantasies.

Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect and the L.A. Weekly.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Home-grown computer upgrade

If you're as worried about your financial future as most folks in the Commonwealth are, you're likely trying to nurse your old computer along for as long as possible in order to milk every last penny's worth out of it. For those of us who use notebook computers, the financial stakes can get high, since the good ones carry stiff price tags.

My favorite ThinkPad notebook finally hit the capacity wall last week. But it was good timing since, as I brooded over it, I was hefting the external hard drive that I wrote about in my February 29 column.

And then I got inspired. Which, usually, is a dangerous thing. I decided to upgrade my notebook computer hard drive myself.

The hardware angle didn't worry me, but my ThinkPad, like many other brands, has a weird (weird to me, since I'm not a computer expert) hard drive partition that is used for "recovery." So I didn't know if I could replicate my initial hard drive onto the bigger one.

But I aimed to find out. Everything seems to be working well, so for anyone contemplating the same type of project, here's what I did.

I went out and bought the new hard drive. How did I know what to get? I Googled my model of computer, and read a web site by a Linux user (those guys are smart) about his hard drive project. I figured he knows what he's doing, so I mimicked him and bought

the same model of hard drive.

2. I fished around on the web and found some instructions from the computer manufacturer for hard drive removal and replacement. I printed these out.

3. I backed up all my data, of course.

4. Remember that external hard drive I mentioned? It's a 2.5-inch drive mounted in an enclosure kit, which connects to the computer via a USB cable. I opened up the enclosure, took out its hard drive (onto which I had just backed up my computer), and installed my new hard drive in it.

5. Here was the key step: Using a program called Acronis True Image (version 8.0 in my case, which might be a bit dated), I took an image of my old hard drive, including that wacky partition I mentioned, and copied it onto the new hard drive. This worked out so slick I was totally surprised. In fact, I'm still surprised.

6. Having set it up, I removed the new hard drive from the external enclosure in preparation for its transplant into my computer.

7. Surgery time! Prep the patient: I unplugged my computer and removed the battery.

8. I removed the old hard drive from the computer, taking a zillion digital photos of it along the way, so I wouldn't botch the installation of the new drive.

9. I put in the new drive, and even the instructions and my photos

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs on Fridays. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com and TropicalEd.com.



didn't stop me from trying to put it in upside down. I was ginger about things, though, so no harm done.

10. I put the battery back in, plugged in the computer, booted it up, and, presto, all was bliss. Since I used an image, as opposed to a mere copy, of my original disk, all my settings, programs, data, and such were just like usual. Amazing.

Victory. How sweet it is. Beginner's luck? Probably.

But if I can do it, anyone can. I think the big magic here was the Acronis True Image software; I don't know if pros use it (many use a competing product called "Ghost") but, for an amateur like me, it made everything fall into place. Also, having that external 2.5-inch enclosure kit really helped, since it provided a convenient platform to temporarily mount the new drive while I set it up.

When I think about the time I spent, and wasted, constantly culling down and reorganizing files on my old hard drive because it was overflowing, I wish I had done this project a year ago.

Saipan: More of what I like about you

Last week I started this list of common responses I give to people who contact me wondering what it is like to live in Saipan. Here, my list continues.

Self-discovery.

You can do anything. For some reason, Saipan is a place of self-discovery. If you have an idea, all you have to do is pursue it. If you've ever dreamt of being something, on Saipan it's likely possible. You'll start endeavors out of desire, others out of pure necessity. You may arrive a doctor and end up a photographer. You may come to teach in the public school, and end up doing stand-up comedy. You may find that you want a different type of education for your kids, and start a school. You may lose 30 pounds and run a triathlon. You may be an environmentalist, who ends up representing the CNMI as a member of the National Football Team. You may write a book, act in a play, open a business, start a new degree, or all of these things. This sort of pursuit of the diverse facets of the soul is fairly typical on Saipan. If you've ever had an interest in something, Saipan is the place to explore it. You'll discover interests here you never knew you had.

Travel.

Most people live and die without a passport. My kids have a gazillion entry stamps in theirs. In our years here, we've traveled to China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, Singapore, Bali, Papua New Guinea, and the islands of Micronesia.

Casual Atmosphere.

You'll never see a suit on the island. Sometimes you'll see a tie. You'll find people in t-shirts and shorts at all occasions: weddings, funerals, at work, in meetings of any kind, in fancy restaurants. A corollary to the casual nature of the island is that there is very little emphasis on material possessions. There is no such thing as keeping up with the Joneses. It doesn't much matter what you drive, where you live, or what the tags on your clothes say. The symbols of materialism take a back seat here.

Family First.

This is a double-edged sword, but it has changed me for the better. Family is more important than work. It's not a struggle to live your life under that premise here on Saipan. In America, you may want

BETTER LIVING

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com. Copyright © 2008 David Khorram

to, but the minute you try to take off work because your kids are sick, or because your sister needs help moving, or because you want to go fishing with your brother, you'll not be taken seriously as a member of the workforce. Your career will head into a skid. Here, it's the norm for people to miss work for any of these reasons, and it's actually encouraged. Why not? We say that work is not the most important thing in the world, but why not live in a way that shows we mean it? That's the way things are here, and I think it's a more sane way of living. Of course, things do suffer in the workplace, which can be frustrating as an employer or a co-worker, but you just try to plan for it.

Puppy Police

I would like to commend the Tinian "Puppy Police." It seems that since the inception of the animal control laws that were put in place at the instigation of Mayor Jose San Nicholas of Tinian, the dog control people have finally learned how to write summons for the enforcement of the laws. I hope they are better at writing these summons than many of the new police recruits that may or may not have graduated from Tinian High School within the past years under their present high school principal.

Hey, let's get the full details on these tickets. What specifically were the infractions, what were the names of the people who got the summons? This is public record and can be had by going to the Clerk of Court on Tinian and requesting it.

Since there are no news people on the outer islands, I am thinking that this "news" was sent by the Mayor's Office on Tinian by one of his staff or by the persons that actually accomplished writing the animal violation summons.

Were the "ticketed" people locals, white people, (excuse me, blacks and other non-CNMI-U.S. citizens are also included). By god, maybe it was a contract worker. Any nationality will do.

Did the "puppy police" have to have DPS backup and help write and issue the citations? Were the offenders brought to jail and booked? (A hundred-dollar fine is the amount of most contempt of court bench warrant.) In the mainland and Hawaii, you are arrested and bailed out for breaking animal laws and the penalties are in excess of \$100 plus possible jail time.

I am serious in the aforementioned questions, but all joking aside, I have the utmost respect for Mayor San Nicholas for putting in place this animal control law. It is long overdue and was passed in the Senate many years prior to his election. I am very familiar with the people who worked on this current local law.

The Mayor also has many other things that he has put in place that are very good indeed. The problem is his political hires and the Mayor cannot by himself be able to look at everything to see the shortfalls of his politically appointed people, who use strong-arm tactics against employers and employees who question the local government.

Saipan should take note of the Tinian's mayor's achievements in regards to animal control. In the past, it

See PUPPY on Page 13

Letters to the Editor

No protection for alien workers

I would like to address this letter to all concerned, especially those in the Department of Employment Services who are responsible for the implementation of the new and improved labor reform act of 2007.

It has been observed in the past, even before PL 15-108 came into effect, that a resident worker or a U.S. citizen, once hired by an employer for the position that had been occupied by a foreign worker for many years, would then resign after only two to three months to pursue his/her career off-island or simply don't like the job or cannot do the job.

This predicament has been going on for a long time now and is the most difficult thing for the adept foreign worker who loses his/her long-time job because of the implementation of the local preference law.

The new Employment Rules and Regulations" Part V1, Employment of Foreign Workers Section 2 of PL 15-108 under Private Sector Employment A – Management of the Labor Pool in the Commonwealth (last 3 lines) says: "Citizens and permanent resident employment and foreign na-

tional worker employment are BOTH necessary components of the Commonwealth Economic Success in the future." It seems that this last three lines of Private Sector Employment of the new labor reform law is contrary to that of Section 2B – Primary Job Preference that says: "Citizens and permanent residents shall be given a primary preference for employment in the Commonwealth. This requirement underlies all regulations with respect to the hiring, renewal, replacement, and termination of employees."

The word BOTH is useless under Section 2B primary job preference. In addition, under primary job preference section, it says; "An important part of the implementation of the primary job preference is emphasis on jobs and occupations for which citizens and permanent residents are or can be qualified and which should be attractive to them. The employer will not hire a citizen or resident worker only because

a particular job is attractive to them. "Can be" is also unacceptable because a wise employer will not hire an ambiguous person only because of the local preference law. Absences and tardiness are among (if not all) the common practices of resident or citizen workers. The quality of work an employee can provide and the dedication to do the task is the best criteria on top of the employer's list. There is no provision under the new labor reform law that, in the event a citizen or a resident worker ceases to continue his/her employment after two or six months of employment, the Department of Employment Services will have the liability to recall the displaced foreign worker. It is unfair for the displaced foreign workers to note that a resident or citizen worker ceased to continue working after a few months because the new labor reform law provides no protection under these circumstances. I hope it is not their modus operandi to move foreign workers into a very uncomfortable situation that will lead to his/her deportation.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 82° ▼ 77°	▲ 82° ▼ 76°	▲ 82° ▼ 75°	▲ 82° ▼ 76°	▲ 81° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 72
Majuro	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 59
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 40
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 74 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 71
London	Rain	▲ 52 ▼ 51
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 51
Manila	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 96 ▼ 76
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 65
New York	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 38
Osaka	Rain	▲ 55 ▼ 37
Paris	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 46
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 36
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 46
Salem	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 46
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 33
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 60 ▼ 45
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 43

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
01:46AM Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
06:26AM Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet
11:27AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
07:32PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:26AM	6:27PM	Today	11:26AM	12:01AM
Saturday	6:25AM	6:27PM	Saturday	12:28PM	01:04AM
Sunday	6:24AM	6:27PM	Sunday	01:30PM	02:04AM
Monday	6:23AM	6:28PM	Monday	02:31PM	02:57AM
Tuesday	6:23AM	6:28PM	Tuesday	03:28PM	03:45AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHTOES

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asia; MU: China Eastern; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 9, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily
CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6
CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota
CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily
CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya
NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6
CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1
OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6
CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7
CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror
CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily
PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota							
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily				

Letters to the Editor**Let the people decide**

It's really good to see the 16th Legislature trying to get it right by giving the critical decisions to the people. I have written many letters about how the Legislature has made poor decisions and how they have ignored the people in making the decision and its so good to see it wasn't all wasted. I want the thank and commend Rep. Heinz Hofsneider for taking the politically correct route of presenting his initiatives to the people and to Rep. Joseph Camacho for supporting the people in making

'My response'

WJ Rozier has misread my letters or not read them at all, and I hope others will not jump to conclusions with this same fervor. The first area he and others mention is the love, caring about people and pro-immigration stance. We've covered this—check paragraph two of "McCue clarifies statements"—you can care and not be pro-immigration.

You then claim I said the US government is the worst system in the world, but if you re-read my letter you will see I said the opposite—it's the worst system in the world SAVE every other system, meaning it's the best system in the world.

You go on and want the politicians and government to care for and represent the views all the people. There is just such a system, and the mantra of it is this: From each according to his ability, to each according to his need. It's called communism. Just how long do you think anyone would stay in office if they started representing people that don't vote for them?

I've already stated that all citizens of the CNMI have an obli-

gation to see that persons with a grievance are assisted. Not having a green card is not a grievance—see the hard, unspoken truth. Many points I made are your same points, of the reluctance to return to the country they came from, so no, I am not blind.

I do not recall the total amount of aid given to the CNMI but if memory serves me right, it is by far a lesser amount than all the other insular areas.

Contract workers have the same ability as all people to be good or evil, smart or less than smart, caring or uncaring and brave or timid. You said I belittled the contract workers. That is your perception, and as I said, I cannot do anything about your perception or lack of perception. You do not know if I am a billionaire or destitute, so saying I have so much and am very fortunate is without any basis. If federalization takes place as the feds see it, all the contract workers will have to leave within 4.5 years. Is that what they and you want?

William McCue
Wellington, FL

all U.S. citizens to own one house lot and one business lot and place a yearly property tax on all commercial property. I have heard all the different arguments for never changing the land alienation status but none of them can refute the federal law that demands every citizen have the right to own property. The indigenous people of the CNMI need to know that if there is no level of equity for all U.S. citizens after the 2011 vote, it will take only one official complaint to reach the federal courts and the CNMI will be facing federalization all over again on the land issue.

PUPPY

From Page 11

seemed like the "puppy police" was engaging in the "selective" enforcement of the laws with these individuals, like the rest of

We shouldn't wait until our fathers in Washington have to step in on the land issue when we already know what needs to be done; we will only be asking for federalization all over again. But I pray we have at least learned this lesson from history and our present experiences with the feds on wage increases. We really need to fix the land issue and stop using band aid lease increases that don't even stick because extending the lease still won't attract investors for industries. Investors do have common sense about investing hundreds of millions on something they

CNMI. Depends on what name and color.

I have another question, though: What happened to the litter police? I remember when they all "graduated" and had the "enforcement power" to issue tickets for littering. Why has

will own and not lease.

It's really common knowledge now that the land issue is the biggest drawback to the CNMI creating a fully developed economy with multiple industries. Adding a few years on a lease is really just another band aid on top of another band aid and if the people are going to decide, let the voters make the ultimate decision now. I was taught to never put off something you can do today for tomorrow; it's just delaying progress and it's really common sense.

If there is going to be a special election for these initiatives I also

hope the Legislature will put a yes or no vote for federalization on the ballot so we can at least establish the true consensus of the majority or we will continue fighting the feds and each other over federalization with no real basis for our arguments as to what the majority of people want. The truth will set us all free of this back and forth over federalization. So let the people decide now on land and federalization—why put it off when it is really clear we need to take action now!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

math of a beach party. (Note: The Tinian Mayor's Office has "trash trailers" or bins located in all of the beaches and areas of beach assembly on Tinian.)

John Mixson
San Jose, Tinian/Bicol, RP

Saturday Sale!

March 15, 2008 • 10:00AM to 2:00PM

PTI Customer Service Parking Lot (Chalan Lau Lau)



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Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade

\$130.00***

Regular Buy: \$150.00



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Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade
or Regular Buy

\$25.00***



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(CDMA Camera Phone)

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**FEEDS ARE AVAILABLE NOW
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Youth urged to participate in WIA program

The Workforce Investment Agency is now looking for a total of 425 positions in both the private and public sectors that it will fill up with trainees under the upcoming Summer Youth Employment and Training Program.

The program itself is scheduled to officially begin June 16, 2008 and will end on July 25, 2008, for a period of six weeks.

Prior to the qualified participants' job placements in the private and public sectors, WIA will require all qualified and registered summer youth participants ages 14-21 to attend various workshops in customer service, telephone etiquette, work ethics, and personal grooming.

These workshops are designed to prepare the youth participants as they begin their entrance into the real working business environment.

Employers are encouraged to enhance and provide positive and professional role models on these areas for the participants to learn from while gaining their summer work experience with their companies.

The workshops will be conducted June 9, 2008-June 13, 2008 at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center from 8am to 12pm and from 1pm to 5pm. OSHA workshops and the opportunity for the participants and employers to meet one another are also the activities included in the week

of June 9-13, 2008.

The number of slots requested from both the public and private sectors are 218 on Saipan, 95 on Tinian, and 112 on Rota.

In the interest of participants' safety, OSHA compliance and in accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor's YouthRules! Initiative, which promotes positive and safe work experiences for young workers, WIA reserves the right not to fill some requested slots if the slots are considered non-conducive to the YouthRules! Initiative.

Applications will be made available at Marianas High School, Saipan Southern and Kagman High Schools' counselors' offices and at the WIA and Tinian Offices. (PR)

office located in Bldg. 1215, Capital Hill, Rota and Tinian applicants may pick up and submit applications at the WIA Rota and Tinian offices. For additional information, contact WIA Saipan Office at 664-1704/5/7/8 and 1757. Rota Office at 532-1701 and Tinian Office at 433-1700.

Participants will be qualified based on income, barriers and priority ranking index and not on the application receipt date. Only completed applications with the required verifiable documentations will be accepted beginning March 17, 2008, up until April 18, 2008 at the WIA Office Bldg. 1215, Capital Hill and at WIA Rota and Tinian Offices. (PR)

Nominees sought for '08 Phil. Presidential Awards

The Philippine Consulate General is now accepting nominations for the Year 2008 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas.

The Presidential Awards is a biennial search to recognize exceptional individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to Philippine progress and development. The awards are also conferred on overseas Filipinos who have shown excellence and distinction in their work or profession.

Instituted in 1991, it has so far been conferred on 283 overseas-based individuals and organizations.

Further information on the evaluation criteria for the awards categories, as well as nomination forms, may be obtained from the Philippine Consulate General at the 5th Floor, Marianas Business Plaza.

The Philippine Consulate General will accept completed nomination forms with supporting documents no later than May 9, 2008, to allow enough time for the documents to be endorsed and forwarded to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas prior to the deadline. (PR)

7th ANNUAL CHARITY CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Marianas Country Club

Show Time 6:30 a.m. / Shotgun Start 7:30 a.m.

Entry forms: Available at Marianas Country Club, Century Hotel and HANMI members.

Tournament Fee: \$99.00 / \$110 after April 1 inclusive of Green Fee, Prizes, Awards, Banquet

Maximum entries: 144 players

Additional banquet guests \$20 per person

PRIZES
CHAMPIONSHIP, SENIORS, A, B & C FLIGHTS

First Place:	\$500.00 plus trophy
Second Place:	\$300.00 plus trophy
Third Place:	\$200.00 plus trophy
Ladies Double Peoria : 1st	\$500.00 plus trophy
2nd	\$300.00 plus trophy
3rd	\$200.00 plus trophy

FLIGHT CATEGORIES

Championship
A - Flight
B - Flight
C - Flight
Seniors (Age 50+)
Ladies

All those who do not win a flight, you'll be entered into double peoria for a chance to win a free trip

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Carlsmith Law Office	Hafa Adai Beach Hotel	The Gentle Brook Cafe
Century Tours	Hyatt Regency Saipan	Tribes at Century Hotel
Chung Nam	Kautz Glass	360 Restaurant
DFS	Pacific Islands Club	

HOLE IN ONE!
#6, #8, #12, #16

Sign up today at Marianas Country Club, Century Hotel or through HANMI members!

Winner of each flight gets 1 month free golf play courtesy of Marianas Resort!



'HEADY' SESSION

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios reacts during Wednesday's session at the House Chamber on Capitol Hill.

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on three beaches on Saipan after samples showed excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

The affected sites are the Jeffries Beach, North Laulau Beach, and South Laulau Beach. DEQ advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations contained concentrations of

enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples taken from 12 Saipan east and south recreational beaches. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

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Sale starts on March 14 to 19, 2008



Colgate Toothpaste
8.2oz.
2 for \$5.00



Jergens Lotion
10oz.
3 for \$7.00



White Rain Shampoo or Conditioner 18.9oz.
2 for \$3.50



Pure-Aid Cotton Swabs 525ct.
\$1.99



John Frieda Shampoo or Conditioner
\$4.99



CL Baby Wipes 80 ct.
\$1.99



Girls French Toast Denim Pant
\$10.99



Infants Over All with Shirt Assorted Colors
\$1.29



Infants Vest Assorted Colors
\$1.29/ea.

Best Buys!

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Best Buys!
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\$12.49

Proctor Silex
Sandwich Maker
\$19.99

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Shoulder Steak
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\$15.99/bg.



Toastmaster
Toaster
\$12.99



Rival 12"
Electric Skillet
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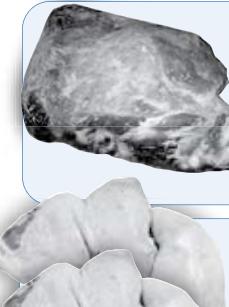
Salton Rice
Cooker 7 Cups
\$25.99



Hanging Flower Pot
\$2.99



Rubbermaid 36"
Portable Wardrobe
\$29.99



New Zealand
Boneless Beef
Clod
**\$1.99
/lb.**



New Zealand Beef
For Stew Family Bag
7lb.
\$14.99



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Underbed
Rolling Storage
\$13.99



25 Liter Rolling
Plastic Orginizer
\$8.99



24 pcs
Storage Set
\$19.99



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\$35.99



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Wagon Grill
with Wooden
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Spareribs 30lbs./case
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/lb.



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Set
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1/2 Shell Mussels
2.2lb.
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/ea.**



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/lb.**



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4.4lbs.
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SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2004 RAV-4 4DR. 4WD
Auto, Beige
Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
Mileage: 41649

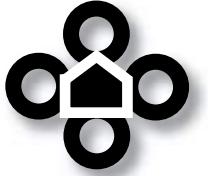
\$14,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
GM CARS							
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	8,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	8,699
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	9,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999
LEXUS							
R08-003	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO		IVORY	ADU-502	29,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS							
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X4 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,500
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS							
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,999
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,999
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	16,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899
VANS							
U07-096T	2000	SIENNA XLE	AUTO	92766	GRAY	ACO-561	8,999
R08-001F	2004	SIENNA LE	AUTO	164483	WHITE	ABY-567	12,999
SPORT UTILITY							
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAGNE	ABY-153	13,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-082P	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		13,599

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2x4x16	\$6.10/Pc	\$5.75/Pc
2x4x18	\$6.90/Pc	\$6.30/Pc
2x4x20	\$7.40/Pc	\$6.90/Pc

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 \$8.80 Nicbond, 55lbs/bag

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20% OFF

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6"	\$0.60/pc
8"	\$0.70/pc

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 Rope \$2/pc

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Artifacts teach kids about CNMI history

For the second year in a row, Fabian M. Indalecio displayed his collection of World War II relics and ancient Chamorro artifacts to Northern Marianas History, World History and Japanese Class students at the Saipan Southern High School.

Over 300 students had the opportunity to view the variety of relics and artifacts on display. As the students walked around looking at the items, they would call out questions to Indalecio.

"I've never seen this before," said one student. "Is this an egg?" pointing to an ancient Chamorro sling stone. Indalecio replied, "No, it's a sling stone used by ancient Chamorros for hunting, fighting or perhaps sports."

"Mr. Indalecio, is this for washing cloths?" pointing at a *metate*. "No, it's for grinding dried corn used by the Chamorro, perhaps introduced during Spanish time."

"It is my passion to collect and buy relics and artifacts pertaining to our history here in the CNMI," explained Indalecio to the students during his presentation.

He conceded that collecting and buying these artifacts is costing him a lot of money. "I really don't care about the money I spent," he said. "I love showing them to students and that is what is important, so they can have the actual visual experience."

Indalecio said he gets just as excited as the students when he sees them fascinated with the collection.

To press his point, Indalecio sponsored an essay competition this year, asking students to explain "Why collecting and preserving World War II relics and ancient Chamorro artifacts are important." This was the first time that Indalecio held this activity, using his own pocket money, with the support of his wife, Cheryl Indalecio.

Over 200 entries were submitted. The final winner was Josie Manalo, who won for herself \$50. The second prize of \$30 went to Da Hee Kim, while the third prize of \$20 went to Fumi Nimura. The fourth prize, \$20, went to Mariah Ada. (ST)

The importance of preserving relics of our past

By JOSIE MANALO

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



helps keep our traditions going strong. With Saipan advancing like the rest

world, people are slowly forgetting the true meaning of being a Chamorro, how they came out to be, and what our ancestors before us did to shape that.

Believe or not, even our native language seems to be slowly dying out. What can we as a people do to help prevent this? Preserving the relics of our ancestors is a big way to do that. By keeping rocks you may have found at the beach one day that came out to be arrowheads, glass bottles that turn out to be since the Japanese era, coins from the Spanish, and certain things like that—all have meaning to them. They are symbols of how our island came out the way it is today. It helps from forgetting the steps we took to become so advanced.

It does not matter if you're from the CNMI, U.S. or Philippines, our homeland did not just pop out with so many cars and buildings, they started with its natives, trees, animals, plants, and struggling for survival, before it became advanced. Keeping relics you've found is not just a benefit to you, but your people as well. By preserving them you help keep the traditions from dying out. By doing this you help us remember who we are, because it's a shame to forget the very people who helped shape us today. Our surroundings may change, but let's not include our traditions as well.

Setting Pacific organic certification, standards

As demand for organic produce continues to grow worldwide, the Pacific's organic farmers are keen to produce and export organic products. But before they can market their products internationally, they need to show they are meeting accepted standards for organic production.

The Regional Organic Task Force has been given the job of drawing up suitable standards. Its second meeting will be held next week, March 17–21, 2007, at Raffles Gateway Hotel, Nadi, where members will review the second draft of the Pacific organic standards and finalize the document.

The ROTF is responsible for providing technical advice on the development of the organic sector in the Pacific. Its members, who are organic experts selected by each participating country, will come to the meeting after extensive canvassing of the views of national stake-

holders. These views will feed into the development of the standards. Having harmonized Pacific standards will facilitate certification and reduce the costs associated with it. The standards will also be an opportunity to tell the story of Pacific organic agriculture to the world.

The meeting is being organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Both organiza-

tions are involved in a project to develop regional certification standards and a strategy for organic agriculture in the Pacific.

The meeting will also consider various options for organic certification and finalize an appropriate organic certification system for the region. The system will cover both the production and processing of organic food products in the Pacific.

At present, farmers exporting

Illegal aliens face deportation in Solomons

HONIARA, Solomon Islands
(Solomon Star/PIR)—Forty-four Asians illegally working in the Solomon Islands logging industry have been given seven days to leave or be kicked out.

proper work permits.

Acting Commissioner of Labour Josiah Manehia said the seven day order was effective as of yesterday.

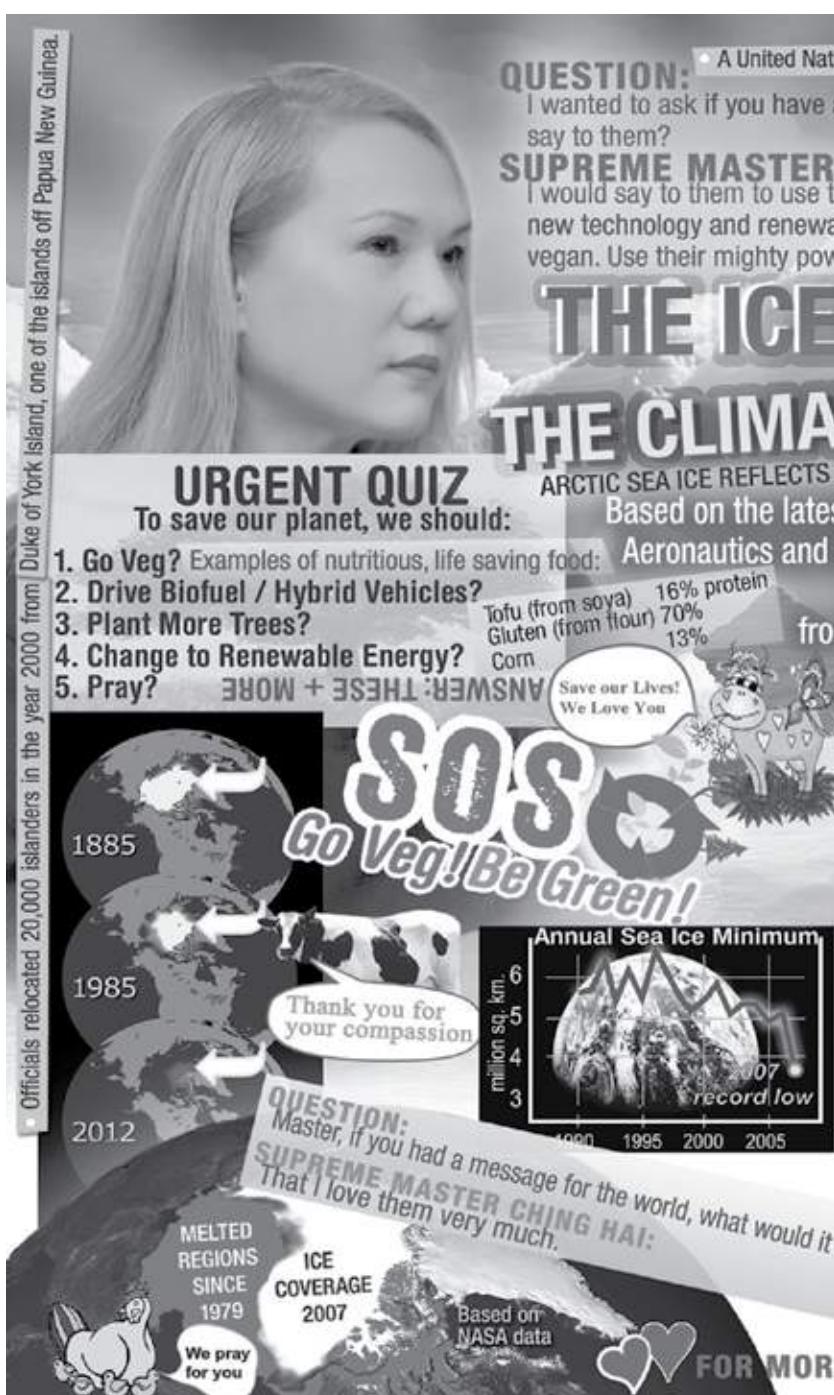
"They have until next Tuesday to leave voluntarily. Those who fail to do so will be arrested and deported." Mr Manehia said.

deported, Mr. Marcella said.

He said some of them would leave today.

Manehia said the Asians, from Malaysia and Indonesia, worked for a Malaysian logging company called Sam Lim Sam.

He said some of them were here since 2005. Most of them came in last year.



Roughing it: The benefits of eating fiber

By JILL VANDERKIN, R.D.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Jill Vanderkin is a registered dietitian at the Department of Public Health.

Have you ever heard somebody say, "Eat your roughage" and wondered what is that supposed to mean? What is roughage anyway?

Roughage is another word for fiber. If somebody said to you, "I found something that can help you lose weight. You can eat a lot and feel really full. It also protects you against heart disease, many types of cancer, and diabetes!", maybe you're thinking, "How much does this miracle pill cost, and what's the catch?" Well, there's no cost and

How can you get more fiber in your diet?

- Switch to bran cereal. Bran has even more fiber than other grain choices, so to get the biggest fiber load, pick bran cereals.
- Eat fruit and vegetables with the skin or peel on (potatoes, carrots, taro, radishes, apples, and pears).
- Add fresh fruit (like papaya) to oatmeal or other whole grain cereal (at least four grams of fiber/serving) for breakfast.
- Eat fruit instead of drinking juice.
- Use breads and cereals that have WHOLE grain flour listed as the first ingredient.
- Eat popcorn, vegetables or fruit for snacks and dessert.
- Eat brown, basmati, or jasmine rice instead of white.
- Include more beans in your meals: add to casseroles, chili, burritos, soups, and salads.

no catch! In fact, there's no pill either! The miracle is fiber, and it can really do all these things for you.

Some people with diabetes have focused on eating a lot of fiber, and they have controlled their diabetes with just fiber alone. Others have been able to decrease their insulin or medi-

cines by eating more fiber, and almost all people, in every study, have been successful at losing weight. The fiber really makes our digestive system work and it slows down the rate at which sugar enters our blood.

So what is the catch then? Well, you have to eat enough fiber. It's that simple. The newest recommendations are for about 24-40 grams each day (14 grams of fiber for every 1,000 calories you eat). In comparison, I would say that most people I have talked to in the CNMI eat around 5-10 grams of fiber each day! That's a big difference!

Can you eat too much fiber? No way! Fiber doesn't turn

into calories, so you can eat a lot of it and feel really full, but not gain weight. In fact, in a lot of studies, people had to eat 50 grams a day to really see major benefits. It's not easy to eat that much fiber. You need to really focus, but the results

ARC gains supporters for '08 Red Cross walkathon

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is gearing up for its 22nd annual Red Cross Walkathon, scheduled on April 12, 2008, at the 4-H building in Susupe.

In addition to the 10-kilometer walk, there will be an obstacle course, health fair, games, prizes and lots more.

This year, the NMI Chapter has garnered the support of the Coke-Subway-Foremost-Glimpses group of companies, which will be donating refreshments and financial support.

Coke will be providing Pow-

rade. Subway will serve 16-6 foot subway sandwiches at the event. Subway will also provide giant sandwiches to school with the most walkers. Foremost will serve skim milk, orange juice and bottled water.

Their total donation is valued at more than \$6,000.

The community is urged to sign up now by making a \$15 donation (this includes a free t-shirt) to the NMI Chapter to help support the Red Cross and their activities here in the NMI.

For more information call the Chapter at 234-3459. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bingo Bonanza at Mt. Carmel

A Bingo Bonanza will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at the Mt. Carmel Social Hall from 1pm to 6pm. Tickets will be sold at the door and are 10 games for \$20. There is a guaranteed total cash payout of \$1,000. Ticket includes a free raffle ticket. Food and drinks will be sold. This event is sponsored by the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI. Proceeds will be used for skills training and an outside kitchen. (PR)

SNISWCD meeting set

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 1pm at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office. For more information contact our office at 234-6180. (PR)

Cook a Rainbow Challenge set

The Cook a Rainbow Challenge takes place on Saturday, March 29, at the Sabalu Market in Susupe. Judging will be based on taste, creative presentation, texture, use of fresh local ingredients and originality. This year, participants will need to include a reef fish in their recipes.

The contest is coordinated by the Ayuda Network, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, NMC-CREES, PSS-Headstart, DPH-Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Commonwealth Cancer Association. For more information, call 664-4030. (DEQ)

Military ID Cards personnel sets visit

This is to inform all military personnel and their dependents that the ID Card people will be on island from March 17 to 21, 2008, to issue and renew military ID cards. The hours of operation are from 8:30am to 6pm.

For more information, contact SSG Noel Chargualaf at 322-6680 or SPC Tanya Songsong at 322-6670. (PR)

Zoning Board village meetings

The Zoning Board will be holding village meetings on the following dates, times, and places:

Monday, March 17, 6:30pm, DanDan Elementary cafeteria
 Tuesday, March 18, 6:30pm, Tanapag Elementary cafeteria
 Wednesday, March 19, 6pm, WSR Elementary cafeteria

Local families needed to host students

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan is expecting 30 young Japanese students from the Oshima Maritime International High School of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government of Japan.

The students will be arriving on March 21, 2008 and they will be here on Saipan until March 28, 2008. The students will be on island for a weeklong educational trip.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is inviting Saipan families to sponsor these young students from Japan for about a week. The Saipan Mayor's Office is still looking for interested families to open their homes and to help sponsor these young students.

If you are interested on hosting and sponsoring a student, or two students, contact the Mayor's Youth Programs coordinator Olinka Chaudhry at: 234-6208, 234-6280, or 235-7304. (PR)

Mount Carmel School

6th Annual GOLF TOURNAMENT

March 15, 2008 (Tomorrow)

Laolao Bay Golf Resort (West Course)

Registration Time: 6:30 a. m.

DONATION: \$100.00

(Includes Green/Cart fees, prize & banquet.)

Trophies and other gift prizes will be given to top three winners of each category (Championship, Flight A, Flight B, Flight C, Seniors, and Ladies).

Awards and Banquet will be held following the tournament at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Course.

For more information, call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 or Margaret DelaCruz at 235-1251.



**COME HELP SUPPORT THE ONLY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON SAIPAN**

GTC 4th graders expand learning with a field trip

As part of a Social Studies and Science unit, fourth graders at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School have been learning about geography and settlements, industry and commerce, and ecosystems and the human impact on the natural environment.

To expand the students' learning experiences, both fourth grade classes went on a daylong field trip coordinated by their NMC student-teacher, Erin Mortensen.

On Tuesday, March 11, the students visited the CNMI Museum of History and Culture, the Chamolinian Village and the American Memorial Park Museum.

The group was accompanied by their classroom teachers, Deborah Moore and Katelynn DLGuerro, along with parent chaperones Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Camacho and Paul Sasamoto.

The students, teachers, and parents pose in front of the American Memorial Park Museum as Ms. DLGuerro takes the group's photo with Ranger Nancy Kelchner, center. Standing at far left are Mrs. Camacho, Mr. Antonio Camacho, and Mr. Paul Sasamoto. At far right is Ms. Deborah Moore.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Business

Gas prices jump, oil hits \$110



NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline and oil prices extended their record-setting streaks Wednesday, with gas at the pump reaching a new high of nearly \$3.25 and crude surpassing \$110 for the first time.

The gains came as a weakening dollar led investors to shrug off an Energy Department report that crude oil and gasoline

supplies jumped last week.

The national average price of a gallon of regular gas rose by 1.9 cents overnight to \$3.246 a gallon, a new record, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Pump prices are following crude's recent surge, and could rise as high as \$3.75 a gallon this spring, analysts say.

Meanwhile, light, sweet crude

A reflection of a gas station attendant is seen off a side mirror of a vehicle while he takes the reading off a gas pump on Thursday March 13, 2008 in Singapore.

Welcome to 'The Coke Side Of Life' Guam

GUAM—Coca Cola will be promoting "The Coke Side of Life," the national theme for the Coca Cola brand for two years now, in Guam.

An array of events will interpret and celebrate all elements of life (family, friends, community, youth, etc.) Along with these events, Coke will also promote new products within these events. The first round will include an image-driven campaign, which would include media such as newspaper, television, and radio.

Introducing 'The Coke Side of Life' to Guam's community will be through a Bottle Burst Poster Contest and a Can Decorating Contest for schools. Winning posters and cans will be

The British pound rose to \$2.0243 from \$2.0029 even after British Treasury Chief Alistair Darling cut forecasts for domestic growth when he delivered his first annual budget against the backdrop of the worst global economic conditions for a decade.

In other late New York trading, the dollar dropped to 102.04 Japanese yen from 104.17 yen and to 1.0182 Swiss francs from 1.0337 Swiss francs it traded Tuesday. Meanwhile, the dollar edged up to 1.0096 Canadian dollars from 1.0067 Canadian dollars.

Dollar falls to record low against euro

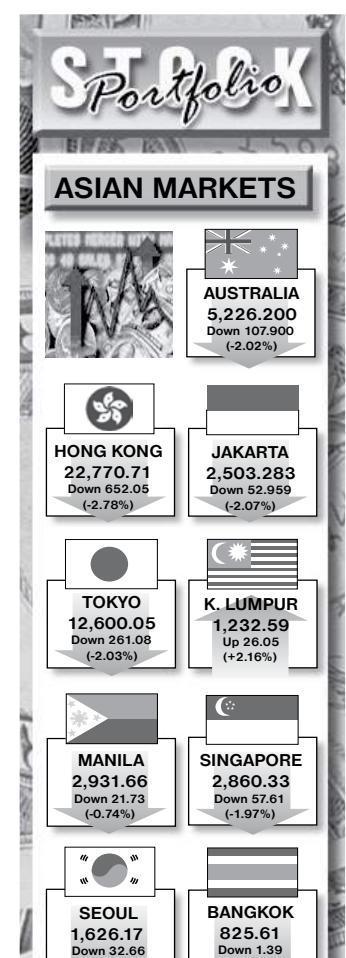
NEW YORK (AP)—The dollar fell against most major currencies on Wednesday, including a new low against the euro, which fetched \$1.55, as skepticism grew over the latest U.S. Federal Reserve Bank plan to restore calm to jittery global credit markets.

The Fed action was overshadowed by U.S. economic struggles, halting the dollar's rise and pushing the euro to a record high of \$1.5559, surpassing its previous record of \$1.5495 set Tuesday.

Late Wednesday, the 15-na-

for April delivery rose \$1.17 to settle at a record \$109.92 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier rising to a new trading record of \$110.20.

The dollar weakened throughout the day Wednesday, setting a number of new lows against the euro and attracting new buyers to the oil market. Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the dollar is weak.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,110.24
-46.57

NASDAQ
2,243.87
-11.89

S&P
1,308.77
-11.88

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0645
British Pound	0.4927
Canadian Dollar	0.9892
Chinese Renmbi	7.0962
Euro	0.6426
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7875
Indian Rupee	40.54
Indonesian Rupiah	9218
Japanese Yen	100.46
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1605
New Zealand Dollar	1.2395
Philippine Peso	41.412
Singapore Dollar	1.383
South Korean Won	981.45
Swiss Franc	1.0115
Taiwan Dollar	30.694
Thailand Baht	31.505

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

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How to overcome a career gap after layoff or time off

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Molly Conlon Hogan has been at home caring for her child since a 2004 layoff and now wants a communications job.

Beth Colley, owner of Chesapeake Resume Writing Service in Crownsville, Md., said Hogan shouldn't dwell on her years out of the paid workforce. "With a strong enough resume and cover letter, Molly should be able to overcome the gap."

Hogan should briefly explain in her cover letter that she was laid off after a corporate restructuring and decided that was a good time to concentrate on her family, said Colley, who frequently works with parents returning to the workforce.

To highlight Hogan's skills, Colley suggests overhauling the format of the resume. "When

you've been out of the workforce for a few years, you may be better served with a combined style format."

Colley suggests that Hogan include a career summary highlighting specific aspects about her background. "It should be relevant (and) concise."

Within the body of the resume, Hogan can choose headings depending on the skills she wants to emphasize, Colley said. "Then underneath each heading, she can incorporate bullet points specifically related to that skill set regardless of when or where she did it."

For example, she could use bullets from four jobs under "Marketing and Communications." "Include numbers or percentages where possible. Don't provide a basic generic statement that you would find in a job description."

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Adult Finances 101

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

Many of us took a high-school class called something like "General Business," designed to teach us how to write a check, fill out job applications and create a simple budget, but that didn't begin to prepare us for the realities of handling money in adulthood.

Where, as adults, do we go to learn about money? The government's Financial Literacy and Education Commission has created a "My Money" Web site full of information we need, almost a do-it-yourself money course. This is a very comprehensive site, covering topics such as home ownership, how to pay for a college education, budgeting and taxes, frauds and scams, and starting a small business. Each links to the appropriate government agency where even more information is presented. The site is well worth the time it takes to investigate and read.

Additionally the site offers a free My Money tool kit, containing nine publications packed with good information, that you can get for free or access online:

The best of the tool kits is a 32-page booklet called Savings Fitness: A Guide to Your Money and Your Financial Future. This alone is worth sending for as an overview of financial topics and guidance. It covers your financial dreams, getting started with a savings plan, setbacks, planning for re-

tirement and more.

■ The Consumer Action Handbook is a 176-page consumer book with topics such as writing complaint letters, auto manufacturer resolution programs, and state and federal agency contact information.

■ Also worth having is the Consumer Information Catalog, a list of education resources from the Federal Citizen Information Center. The information pamphlets are either free or very low cost, and the list of topics is nearly endless. The catalog comes out four times a year. The publications themselves can be seen at www.pueblo.gsa.gov, the government's printing arm. There's a \$2 savings if you order your pamphlets online.

■ Get the Facts on Saving and Investing walks you through calculating your net worth, setting your goals, picking an investment product and determining your risk tolerance.

You can access the My Money tool kit online at my-money.gov, order it online or call to have your own free tool kit sent to you. Call Monday through Friday at 1-888-696-6639 (888-mymoney) between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Art of the deal, speed dating style

NEW YORK (AP)—The days when investment banks would spend time wooing big investors over a leisurely meal, with booze and cigars afterward, may be on their way out.

Now, firms such as Germany's Dresdner Kleinwort can play matchmaker through "speed investing" sessions. It may not be as genteel, but it gives European companies like Lloyds TSB and retailer Burberry a chance to woo deep-pocketed American investors.

Wall Street's twist on speed dating allots companies about 20 minutes to sell themselves before mutual funds and other institutional investors. A buzz rings, time is up, and they all switch tables.

This unconventional form of dealmaking offers a new way portfolio managers might find the next stock for your 401(k).

"This is a clever way of meeting people," said Henry De Vismes, a former Citigroup Inc. executive that now runs his own wealth management shop based in New York. "I try to meet about four companies a week, but here I can see 20 in a day. You have to do your homework because it can be quite intense."

Typically, a company embarks on a formal road show to meet hundreds of investors at once - limiting the amount of time for any face-to-face meetings. Top corporate executives rarely meet with

smaller wealth managers. Instead, they clear the decks for big-name outfits like Merrill Lynch & Co. or Fidelity Investments.

The speed investing events gives would-be investors the basics about a company, often from the head of investor relations. If there's a match, both sides arrange a longer meeting before investing any money.

Like investors that attend, companies say the approach helps them reach out to money managers not normally on their radar. A recent speed investing event, held in a Midtown hotel in New York City, featured companies like Swiss drug maker Novartis AG, food and drinks compa-

ny Diageo PLC, and pay-TV operator British Sky Broadcasting PLC.

"You have no idea how whites of the eyes contact is important," said Michael Oliver, director of investor relations for London-based retail bank Lloyds. "This is an add-on to what we do, and won't replace road shows we go on. But, so far it's been a great success."

That's exactly what Dresdner's Nick Seaward wants to hear. He came up with the idea a few years ago to cut back the amount of time it takes to court new shareholders—and help introduce companies to a bigger swath of the investment community.

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Nation

Spitzer resigns in disgrace over scandal

By VERENA DOBNIK and
MICHAEL GORMLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—In a startlingly swift fall from grace, Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned Wednesday after getting caught in a call-girl scandal that made a mockery of his straight-arrow image and left him facing the prospect of criminal charges and perhaps disbarment.

"I cannot allow my private failings to disrupt the people's work," Spitzer said, his weary-looking wife, Silda, standing at his side, again, as the corruption-fighting politician once known as Mr. Clean answered for his actions for the second time in three days.

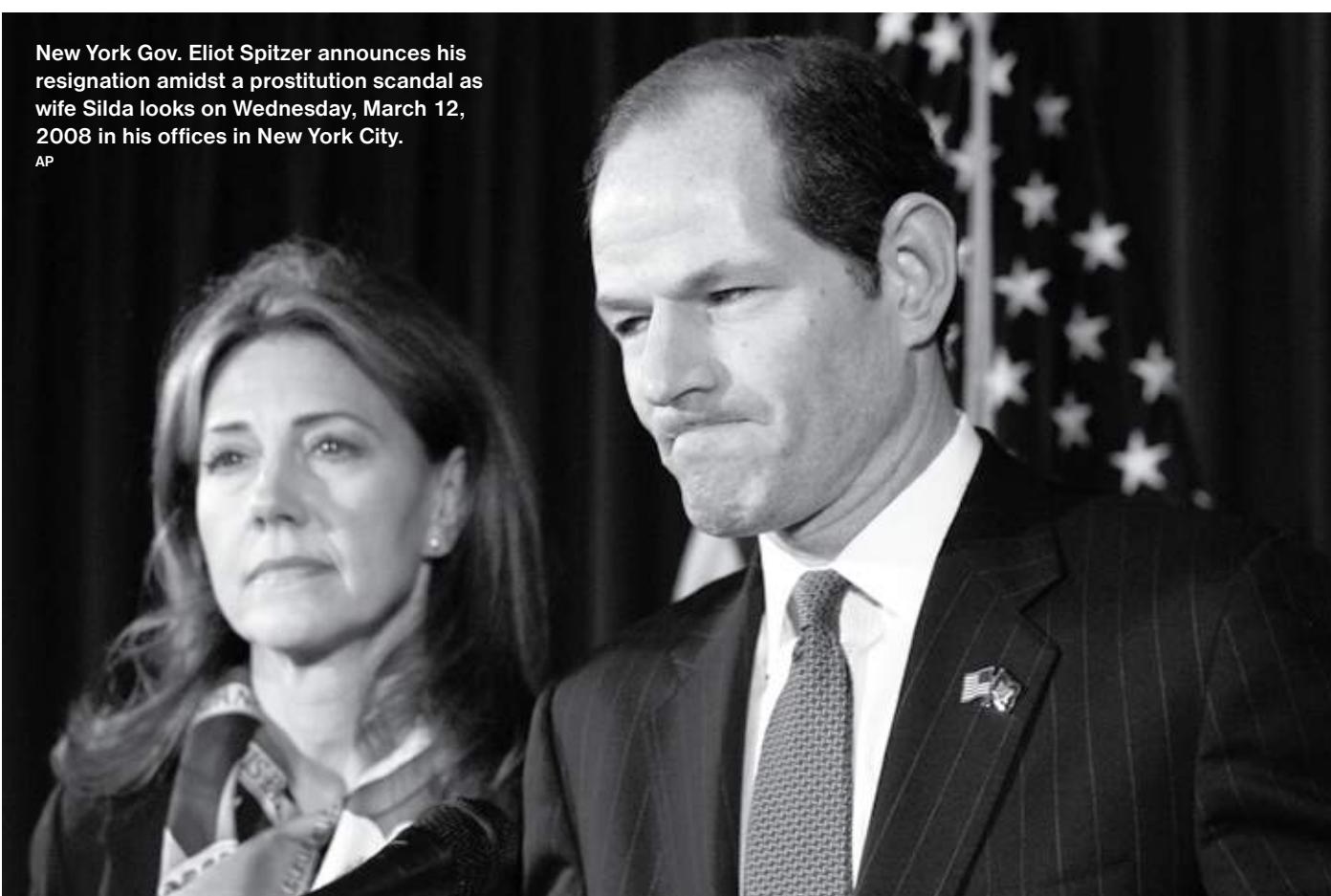
He made the announcement without securing a plea bargain with federal prosecutors, though a law enforcement official said the former governor was still believed to be negotiating one. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Spitzer will be succeeded on Monday by Lt. Gov. David Paterson, a fellow Democrat who becomes New York's first black governor and the nation's first legally blind chief executive.

The resignation brought the curtain down on a riveting three-day drama—played out, sometimes, as farce—that made Spitzer an instant punchline on late-night TV and fascinated Americans with the spectacle of a crusading politician exposed as a hypocrite.

His dizzying downfall was met with glee and the popping of champagne corks among many

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer announces his resignation amidst a prostitution scandal as wife Silda looks on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 in his offices in New York City.
AP



on Wall Street, where Spitzer was seen as a sanctimonious bully for attacking big salaries and abusive practices in the financial industry when he was New York attorney general. And his resignation brought relief at the state Capitol in Albany after days of excruciating tension and uncertainty.

"Some rules can't be broken, and when they are broken there are consequences," said state Assemblyman John McEneny, a Democrat. "In this case, one of the most promising careers I've seen in a generation."

The scandal erupted Monday

after federal law enforcement officials disclosed that a wiretap had caught the 48-year-old father of three teenage daughters spending thousands of dollars on a call girl at a fancy Washington hotel on the night before Valentine's Day.

Investigators said he had arranged for a prostitute named Kristen to take the train down from New York while he was in the nation's capital to testify before a congressional subcommittee about the bond industry.

Late Wednesday, the *New York Times* reported that her real name is Ashley Alexandra

Dupre. She declined to comment when asked by the *Times* when she first met Spitzer and how many times they had been together.

It was unclear whether she would face charges; attorney Don D. Buchwald confirmed that he represents the same woman in the *Times* story but wouldn't comment further.

With every development, it became increasingly clear that Spitzer, politically, was finished.

Law enforcement officials said the governor—the millionaire heir to a New York real estate fortune—had hired pros-

titutes several times before and had spent tens of thousands of dollars, and perhaps as much as \$80,000, on the high-priced escort service Emperors Club VIP, whose women charge as much as \$5,500 an hour.

Senior Spitzer aides, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said Spitzer had been informed Friday by federal prosecutors that he was linked to the prostitution ring.

They said he had kept it to himself through Saturday night, when he attended the annual dinner of the Gridiron Club in

Washington. That night a reporter kept calling cell phones of Spitzer aides.

Spitzer first shared the news Sunday with his wife at their Manhattan apartment, and after several excruciating hours they told their daughters, the aides said. By Sunday evening Spitzer had called top advisers, personal friends and loyalists. The little band huddled in the apartment until midnight.

After making a watery-eyed, non-specific public apology Monday with his wife by his side, Spitzer continued to talk to family and advisers through Tuesday. By Wednesday morning, aides said, he had decided to resign.

He and his wife rode in a black SUV from their Fifth Avenue apartment to his New York City office to announce his resignation—a trip whose every move was captured by TV helicopters. During the news conference, he and his wife stood inches apart, never touching as they entered or left the room.

Speaking in a strong and steady voice, he apologized for his actions and said: "Over the course of my public life, I've insisted, I believe correctly, that people regardless of their position or power take responsibility for their conduct. I can and will ask no less of myself."

He did not address the allegations in any detail in the less than three-minute statement, and left without taking questions.

Officials said that Paterson asked for the Monday hand-over because he needed more time to prepare and wanted Spitzer to say the proper goodbye to his staff.

Spitzer call girl reportedly identified

NEW YORK (AP)—New details emerged Wednesday about the call girl at the center of the prostitution scandal engulfing New York's governor, with a newspaper report identifying her as a 22-year-old aspiring musician from Manhattan.

The *New York Times* reported that the real name of the woman—identified as "Kristen" in court papers alleging that Gov. Eliot Spitzer paid more than \$4,000 for prostitutes' services—is Ashley Alexandra Dupre.

Don D. Buchwald, a New York lawyer, confirmed to The Associated Press that he represents Ashley Alexandra Dupre, the same woman in the *Times* story. "That's as far as I can go," he said.

A man who answered the phone at her mother's home in New Jersey and identified himself as Dupre's brother told The Associated Press he had no idea why Dupre would agree to be interviewed in the scandal.

"I've talked to my sister every five minutes since this happened, and I'm not going to comment on it," he said.

"She's just trying to get through this." Dupre's MySpace page provides a window into her life as she went from a broken home in New Jersey to a music career in the city.

"I have been alone. I have abused drugs. I have been broke and homeless. But, I survived, on my own. I am here, in NY because of my music," she wrote.

In an Aug. 30 blog posting on MySpace, she writes: "The past few months have been a roller coaster with so called friends, lovers, and family... but its something you have to deal with and confront in order to move on..."

"What destroys me strengthens me" is the slogan next to a Dupre photograph. The photos show her at various places, including in a bikini on a boat in a tropical locale. The number of hits to the page soared by the tens of thousands after the story broke.

Dupre describes her favorite musical artists as Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Celine Dion, Christina Aguilera and Frank Sinatra, among many others.

Her Web site boasts a recording of a

song, "What We Want." "I know what you want, you got what I want. I know what you need. Can you handle me?" she sings.

She briefly spoke to the *Times* about the Spitzer scandal. Law enforcement officials identified the governor as a "Client 9" who had a Feb. 13 tryst with "Kristen" and paid her \$4,300, according to court papers.

"I just don't want to be thought of as a monster," Dupre told the *Times*. "This has been a very difficult time. It's complicated."

She told the newspaper she had slept very little since the allegations against Spitzer were revealed.

Dupre told the *Times* she worried about paying her rent in a ninth-floor Manhattan apartment after her boyfriend recently left her. She said she was considering moving back in with her family in New Jersey.

Records show that Dupre lives in Manhattan on West 25th Street, where a gaggle of reporters and TV trucks quickly gathered Wednesday night. It



This 2007 image obtained Wednesday, March, 12, 2008 from a MySpace web page shows a woman identified as Ashley Alexandra Dupre.

is a luxury rental skyscraper called The Chelsea Landmark where rents start at \$3500 a month for a small studio, neighbors said. The 35-story building opened less than a year ago.

She declined to comment when asked by the *Times* when she first met

Spitzer and how many times they had been together.

Dupre apparently appeared in federal court Monday as a witness in the case against four people accused of operating the Emperors Club VIP prostitution ring.

Clinton apologizes to black voters

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton did something Wednesday night that she almost never does. She apologized. And once she started, she didn't seem able to stop.

The New York senator, who is in a tight race with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination, struck several sorry notes at an evening forum sponsored by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a group of more than 200 black community newspapers across the country.

Her biggest apology came in response to a question about comments by her husband, Bill Clinton, after the South Carolina primary, which Obama won handily. Bill Clinton said Jesse Jackson also won South Carolina when he ran for president in 1984 and 1988, a comment many viewed as belittling Obama's success.



"I want to put that in context. You know I am sorry if anyone was offended. It was certainly not meant in any way to be offensive," Hillary Clinton said. "We can be proud of both Jesse Jackson and Senator Obama."

"Anyone who has followed my husband's public life or my public life know very well where we have stood and what we have stood for and who we have stood with," she said, acknowledging that whoever wins the nomination will have to heal the wounds of a bruising, historic contest.

"Once one of us has the nomination there will be a great effort to unify the Democratic party and we will do so, because, remember I have a lot of supporters who have voted for me in very large numbers and I would expect them to support Senator Obama if he were the nominee," she said.

Boys survive being tossed from overpass

DALLAS (AP)—Motorists watched in horror Wednesday as a woman tossed two young boys off a freeway overpass, then took the two-story leap into rush-hour traffic herself. But the shocking moment had an incredibly fortunate ending.

Police said Khandi Busby and her children, ages 8 and 6, somehow survived the fall onto Interstate 30's fast lane and the rush of vehicles.

"It was really miraculous that we didn't have some fatalities with this incident," Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Gil Cerdá said.

Busby, 27, was in fair condition, a hospital spokeswoman said. Police said her sons were stable at another hospital, but

hospital officials declined to comment later Wednesday. The three were able to speak with investigators, although the 8-year-old may have suffered internal injuries.

Busby had not been arrested as of Wednesday but could face two charges of attempted capital murder, Cerdá said.

"The why remains a mystery to us," police Lt. C.L. Williams said. "If you try to apply logic to these incidents, they totally defy any logical explanation."

Shortly before 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, Busby and her sons walked away from her father, who had stopped for gas while driving them to a friend's house. Police do not know why Busby left with her children.

2 charged in UNC student leader slaying

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (AP) -- A man charged with murdering the University of North Carolina student body president was arrested Wednesday as detectives hunted for a second suspect.

The school's Board of Trustees offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest, and police received hundreds of tips after the first two photos were released over the weekend.

Demario James Atwater, 21, was arrested early Wednesday as he left a home in Durham that police had placed under surveillance after receiving a tip.

Shackled at the ankles and waist, and with a public defender at his side, Atwater appeared to have a wound and a bruise on his right cheek at his court appearance. Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran said officers had taken him to

a hospital as "part of the evidence collection" process.

Atwater was ordered held without bond on a charge of first-degree murder. His next court date was set for March 24.

"I hope the arrest can ease the minds of some in the community," said Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall.

Police said they are still searching for the second suspect, 17-year-old Lawrence Alvin Lovette Jr., who was thought to be armed and dangerous.

A police SWAT team was called to a Durham home during the manhunt, but the brief standoff appeared to have ended without an arrest, City Council-

man Eugene Brown said. Neither Chapel Hill nor Durham police would comment.

Police believe Lovette, who also was charged with murder, was pictured in two photos taken at an ATM, driving Carson's Toyota Highlander with Atwater in the back seat. Police also believe Atwater was the suspect shown trying to use Carson's ATM card inside a convenience store.

Curran has previously declined to say when the surveillance photos were taken or the exact location of the ATM and convenience store, or whether any money was successfully withdrawn from Carson's account.

Smog rule tightened; 345 counties fail

WASHINGTON (AP)—The air in hundreds of U.S. counties is simply too dirty to breathe, the government said Wednesday, ordering a multi-billion-dollar expansion of efforts to clean up smog in cities and towns nationwide.

The Environmental Protection Agency announced it was tightening the amount of ozone, commonly known as smog, that will be allowed in the air. But the lower standard still falls short of what most health experts say is needed to significantly reduce heart and asthma attacks from breathing smog-clogged air.

EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson called the new limits "the most stringent standards ever," and he said they will require 345 counties - out of more than 700 that are monitored - to make air quality improvements because they now have dirtier air than is healthy to breathe.

Johnson said that state and local officials have considerable time to meet the requirements - as much as 20 years for some that have the most serious pollution problems. EPA estimates that by 2020 the number of counties fail-



AP

Smog covers midtown Manhattan in New York in this July 10, 2007 file photo.

ing to meet the new health standard will drop to about 28.

About 85 counties still fall short of the old standard enacted a decade ago.

Some of those chronic polluters are far above the old limit. Los Angeles County and a large

swatch of southern California, for example, and a long stretch from Washington up to New England on the East Coast. Some areas that would be newly included under the stricter standard include Indianapolis and Cleveland's Cuyahoga County in the Midwest; Mo-

bile, Ala., and Jacksonville, Fla., in the South and El Paso, Texas, and Tulsa, Okla., out West.

All of Florida and Oklahoma currently comply with the smog standard. Nine counties in each state are unable to meet the tougher requirement.


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Asia

Hong Kong shuts schools in flu outbreak

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong ordered more than half a million primary and kindergarten students Wednesday to stay home for two weeks because of a flu outbreak in one of the world's most densely populated cities.

The government also asked one of its top scientists to investigate the deaths of three children. But the World Health Organization said only two of the children tested positive for the flu, and both had other diseases as well.

The outbreak has not been linked to bird flu, which was detected in birds in Hong Kong. Bird flu remains difficult for humans to catch, but scientists fear the virus that causes it could eventually mutate into a form that spreads easily among humans.

The government has ordered all kindergartens, primary and special education schools closed for two weeks starting Thursday, Health Secretary York Chow said. School children - along with teachers and parents - wore masks Wednesday as they walked outside.

The schools had been expected to start their Easter Holiday in a little over a week, though

the date varies with each school. Chow said bringing the holiday forward would help reduce cross infection among school children and calm public fears.

"When children are at school, it's very hard to keep them still and prevent them from contacting each other. They may not listen to orders and wear masks or wash their hands. This is an effective measure from an infectious disease standpoint," Chow said.

The closure will affect nearly 560,000 students at 1,745 schools, according to enrollment figures from the 2006-2007 academic year.

Since March 6, health officials have recorded nine flu outbreaks, mostly at schools, affecting 532 people in the territory of nearly 7 million.

Chow emphasized that there was no sign of "any significant change of the virus that makes it exceptionally more virulent than the usual flu virus."

The flu cases so far are scattered across the territory, which does not suggest the spread of an exceptionally virulent virus, P.L. Ho, a scientist at the University of Hong Kong's microbiology department, said in an interview with Cable TV.



School students wearing masks as a preventative measure against a recent flu outbreak line up besides their teachers at a primary school in Hong Kong Wednesday March 12, 2008. AP

'Corruption spooks businesses more than security risks in RP'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Widespread corruption has deterred fresh investment in the Philippines more than security risks such as the communist and Muslim insurgencies, a foreign business leader said Wednesday.

Corruption has permeated most levels of government, damaging the country's international image and preventing it from getting some of the huge

Western investments being drawn by China and other regional economic powerhouses, said Michael Clancy, who heads the Philippine Business Leaders' Forum, a club of 240 senior executives from 40 multinational companies.

The executives' companies are involved in oil, banking, logistics and services.

"It's not a country for the faint-hearted," Clancy told reporters on

the sidelines of a conference on East Asian economic integration. "It's a country that you need to approach with caution."

Citing experiences by foreign

businessmen he has met in Manila, Clancy said security risks constitute about 1 percent of their concerns.

"Corruption will be 99 percent," he said.

In the results of an annual survey released earlier Wednes-

day by Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk

Consultancy Ltd., or PERC,

the Philippines was seen as the

most corrupt out of 13 Asian

economies, receiving a 9.0 rat-

ing on a 0-to-10 scale, followed

by Thailand at 8.0, and China

and Indonesia at 7.98.

Still, corruption has not forced

foreign companies to withdraw

from the Philippines, Clancy

said, but it has discouraged them

from expanding and hampered the entry of new investors. Red tape and poor infrastructure are also key concerns, he said.

"What they're saying to me is everywhere you turn, somebody has got their hands out for money," Clancy said, adding that he had never paid a bribe here.

"You need 100 permits and every one of those 100 signatures want something under the table. I said, 'Forget it.'

Indian police detain Tibetan exiles

DEHRA, India (AP)—Police detained more than 100 Tibetan exiles marching in northern India to Tibet in protest of China's Olympic Games early Thursday morning, organizers and officials said.

Indian authorities fear that the march, which began Monday and was expected to last about six months, could embarrass Beijing. Police had banned the exiles from leaving the Kangra district that surrounds Dharamsala, the headquarters of the Tibetan government-in-exile.

Shortly after the protesters set off early Thursday morning, police stopped the march in the town of Dehra, about 12 miles from the district boundary, and forced about 130 protesters into buses.

The protesters shouted "Free Tibet" and other slogans as they were being detained, but there was no violence at the scene, witnesses said.

The group, which included several foreigners, was taken to a nearby police station, said Sitaran, a local police official who goes by one name.

Organizers vowed to continue the march.

"We will have to find a way," said Tenzin Palkyi, one of the march coordinators. "Our legal team will deal with the police."

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 Afghan civilians killed during battle

LONDON (AP)—Four civilians were killed during a firefight in southern Afghanistan in which British troops called in an airstrike to fight off an ambush by insurgents, British and NATO officials said Wednesday. Although some British media reported that the Ministry of Defense said the air attack killed the civilians, a spokeswoman told The Associated Press that it hadn't been determined if that was the cause. NATO said the incident was being investigated. The NATO force and a separate U.S.-led coalition have been strongly criticized by Afghans over civilian deaths during military operations. Both forces said they regretted any such deaths and worked out to avoid such incidents.

Spreading attacks worry Pakistani police

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Security officials warned Wednesday that this week's suicide truck bombing marked a dangerous escalation by militants who are now

striking across Pakistan. A police report obtained by The Associated Press shed light on how militants are finding recruits outside their strongholds along the Afghan border. A yearlong wave of suicide bombings has intensified in recent weeks, posing a stiff challenge to the victors of the Feb. 18 election as they prepare to form a government and begin a new era of civilian rule after eight years of military domination under President Pervez Musharraf. Five of the 16 bomb attacks this year have been in the east—in Punjab, Pakistan's biggest and most prosperous province, including its main city of Lahore, which has been hit three times in two months.

Malaysia's Anwar resurrects career

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Accused of sodomy and convicted of corruption, former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was stuck in political limbo for nearly a decade. But he has resurrected his career with spectacular electoral gains and may soon be back in parliament. The charismatic

Anwar worked tirelessly for more than a year to meld the ideologically divided opposition into an alliance that shook up a country ruled by the same coalition since independence from Britain in 1957. Although it won Saturday's election, the governing National Front lost its two-thirds parliamentary majority for the first time. More significantly, the opposition coalition won control of the governments in five of Malaysia's 13 states. Even government supporters called it a "political tsunami."

China faces criticism as Olympics near

BEIJING (AP)—China is denying mountaineers permission to climb its side of Mount Everest this spring, a move that reflects concerns by the communist government that Tibet activists may try to disrupt its plans to carry the Olympic torch up the world's tallest peak. In recent days, everyone from the U.S. government to rights groups and George Clooney have urged China to tackle issues as varied as its restrictions

on religion; the poor working conditions of migrant labor; Beijing's oil purchases from Sudan to fuel the Darfur crisis; and Tibet. The Everest restrictions were contained in a letter the government's mountaineering association sent this week to expedition companies.

Telecom tower burned in west Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A telecommunications tower was set ablaze in western Afghanistan, a police official said Wednesday, the latest such attack since insurgents warned phone companies to shut down the towers at night. Five militants set fire to the generator, fuel tank and antenna of the tower Tuesday night in the Obe district of Herat province, said Raouf Ahmadi, a regional police spokesman. The tower belonged to the Areeba company. At least two other Areeba towers have been hit, as well as three more owned by the Roshan company. Most attacks have been in the insurgency-plagued southern provinces.

World

Hamas sets terms for Israel cease-fire

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Hamas prime minister called publicly Wednesday for a period of calm with Israel, laying out conditions that would end attacks on Palestinian militants, open Gaza's borders and lift economic sanctions.

But shortly after the appeal by Ismail Haniyeh, Israeli troops opened fire on a car in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and killed four Palestinian militants, clouding the prospects for a cease-fire.

Among the conditions for an end to fighting that Haniyeh set earlier was a halt to Israeli military operations in the West Bank.

"We are talking about a mutual comprehensive calm, which means that the enemy must fulfill its obligations," Haniyeh said in a speech at Gaza City's Islamic University. "The Israelis must stop the aggression ... including assassinations and invasions, end the sanctions and open the borders."

Last French WWI veteran dies

PARIS (AP)—France's last remaining veteran of World War I died Wednesday at age 110 after outliving 8.4 million Frenchmen who fought in what they called "la Grande Guerre."

Lazare Ponticelli, who was born in Italy but chose to fight for France and was a French citizen for most of the past century,

died at his home in the Paris suburb of Kremlin-Bicetre, the national veterans' office said.

"It is to him and his generation that we owe in large part the peaceful and pacified Europe of today. It is up to us to be worthy of that," President Nicolas Sarkozy said in a statement.

France planned a national funeral ceremony Monday honoring Ponticelli and all the "poilus," an affectionate term meaning hairy or tough that the French use for their soldiers who fought in World War I.

The 1914-1918 conflict, known at the time as the Great War or the "war to end all wars," tore Europe apart and killed millions. Only a handful of World War I veterans are still living, scattered from Australia to the United States and Europe. Germany's last WWI veteran died on New Year's Day.

Iraq: US military says it killed child



BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. soldiers fired a warning shot near a woman who "appeared to be signaling to someone" along a dangerous stretch of road north of Baghdad, but the bullet killed a young Iraqi girl, a military official said early Thursday.

The shooting took place Wednesday where several roadside bombs had recently been found in the volatile Diyalah province. An exact location was not given in a military statement.

The girl appeared to be "around 10 years old," said Maj. Brad Leighton, a military spokesman.

There has been an increase in the use of women as suicide bombers in Iraq. But Leighton said preliminary reports indicated that soldiers didn't believe the woman posed a threat of being a bomber. Rather "they

were afraid she was signaling to someone that the convoy was going by."

In its statement, the military said that "coalition forces fired a warning shot into a berm near a suspicious woman who appeared to be signaling to someone while the soldiers were in the area. A young girl was found behind the berm suffering from a gunshot wound."

Roadside bombs have been the biggest killer of American troops in Iraq.

Soldiers gave the girl medical attention and called for an evacuation. The girl died on the way to a medical facility, the statement said.

"Coalition forces take the loss of any innocent civilian life seriously and the incident will be thoroughly investigated," military spokesman Maj. Dan Meyers said in the statement.

Awakening council member looks at the damage after a truck bomb exploded at a nearby Awakening Council checkpoint in Duluyah, 70 kilometers (45 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia slams US report as biased

MOSCOW (AP)—In a sometimes bitter, sometimes sarcastic statement Wednesday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the portrayal of Russia in the 2007 human rights report was prejudiced, mistaken, poorly sourced and counterproductive. The ministry said the report reflected the "double standards" of a country it claimed uses human rights as a "foreign policy tool" while balking at scrutiny of its own actions. "How else can one explain that the United States—which has essentially legalized torture, applies capital punishment to minors,

denies responsibility for war crimes and massive human rights violations in Iraq and Afghanistan, refuses to join a series of treaties in the sphere of human rights—distortedly comments on the situation in other countries?" it said.

Cardinal: Olympics chance for rights

ROME (AP)—The Beijing Olympics in August offer China the chance to improve its human rights record, Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen said Wednesday. "It's a good opportunity for China to show that it has improved its regard for human rights," Zen said in an interview with Italy's RAI

state TV. Zen, one of the most influential Roman Catholic leaders in Asia, added that he would like to see the Asian country become "one of the top nations that truly defend human rights and work for peace." The U.S. State Department said Tuesday in its annual report on human rights practices around the world that China still has chronic human rights problems despite rapid economic growth.

Honduran gang convicted in 2004 bus massacre

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Two Honduran gang members were convicted Wednesday of opening fire on a

bus and killing 28 people, and each were condemned to the country's maximum 40 years in jail. Juan Carlos Miranda, 22, and Darwin Alexis Ramirez, 23, were accused of being among about 10 gang members who shot up a public bus full of Christmas shoppers and commuters on Dec. 23, 2004, in the northern city of San Pedro Sula. They received largely symbolic sentences totaling 822 years each for killing 28 people, trying to kill another 10 people, being gang members and carrying an illegal weapon, according to prosecutor Cesar Alvarenga. Under Honduran law, 40 years is the maximum time that can be served.

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Off the Wall

Sheriff: Woman sat on toilet for 2 years

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Authorities are considering charges in the bizarre case of a woman who sat on her boyfriend's toilet for two years—so long that her body was stuck to the seat by the time the man finally called police.

It appeared the 35-year-old Ness City woman's skin had grown around the seat, said Ness County Sheriff Bryan Whipple. The woman initially refused emergency medical services but was finally convinced by responders and her boyfriend that she needed to be checked out at a hospital.

"We pried the toilet seat off with a pry bar and the seat went with her to the hospital," Whipple said. "The hospital removed it."

Whipple said investigators planned to present their report

Wednesday to the county attorney, who will determine whether any charges should be filed against the boyfriend.

"She was not glued. She was not tied. She was just physically stuck by her body," Whipple said. "It is hard to imagine... I still have a hard time imagining it myself."

Police declined to release the couple's names, but the boyfriend, Kory McFarren, agreed to be interviewed Wednesday by The Associated Press. He identified his girlfriend as Pam Babcock.

McFarren, 36, told investigators he took Babcock food and water and asked her every day to come out of the bathroom.

"And her reply would be, 'Maybe tomorrow,'" Whipple said. "According to him, she did

not want to leave the bathroom."

McFarren told the AP that he wasn't to blame, and that it was solely Babcock's choice to remain in the bathroom.

"She is an adult; she made her own decision. It was my fault I should have gotten help for her sooner; I admit that. But after a while, you kind of get used to it," McFarren said.

Although authorities said they think Babcock was in the bathroom for two years, McFarren said he wasn't certain how long she stayed there. He said she had a phobia about leaving the room because of childhood beatings.

"It just kind of happened one day. She went in and had been in there a little while, the next time it was a little longer. Then she

got it in her head she was going to stay - like it was a safe place for her," McFarren said.

But McFarren said Babcock moved around in the bathroom during that time, bathed and changed into the clothes he brought her. He said they conversed and had an otherwise normal relationship - except that it all happened in the bathroom.

McFarren, who works at an antique store, said he has been taking care of Babcock for the 16 years they have lived together.

McFarren called police on Feb. 27 to report that "there was something wrong with his girlfriend," Whipple said.

Police found Babcock clothed and sitting on the toilet, her sweat pants down to her mid-thigh. She

was "somewhat disoriented," and her legs looked as if they had atrophied, Whipple said.

"She said that she didn't need any help, that she was OK and did not want to leave," he said.

She was reported in fair condition at a hospital in Wichita, about 150 miles southeast of Ness City. Whipple said she refused to cooperate with medical providers or law enforcement investigators.

McFarren said that his girlfriend has an infection in her legs that has damaged her nerves, and that she has no feeling in her legs. She may wind up in a wheelchair, he said.

Authorities said they did not know whether she was mentally or physically disabled.

The case has been the buzz

of Ness City, said James Ellis, a neighbor.

"I don't think anybody can make any sense out of it," he said.

Ellis said he had known the woman since she was a child but that he had not seen her for at least six years.

He said she had a tough childhood after her mother died at a young age and apparently was usually kept inside the house as she grew up. At one time the woman worked for a long-term care facility, he said, but he did not know what kind of work she did there.

"It really doesn't surprise me," Ellis said. "What surprises me is somebody wasn't called in a bit earlier."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman tries to bring skeleton on plane

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — A woman was stopped at Munich airport after baggage control handlers found the skeleton of her brother sealed in a plastic bag in her luggage, police said Wednesday. The 62-year-old woman and her 63-year-old friend, who both live in Italy, were hauled in by airport police Tuesday after a scan of the bag showed a human skull and other bones. The women were traveling to Italy from Brazil. It turned out, however, that the woman was simply trying to fulfill the last wish of her brother - who died 11 years ago in Sao Paulo, Brazil - to be buried in Italy. The travelers produced the appropriate papers from Brazilian authorities for the unusual transport, and were allowed to carry on their way to Naples - bones and all.

9 Hondas stolen in 24 hours in Yakima

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Yakima police took notice when 11 Hondas were stolen in a two-week period. Now they are investigating nine Honda thefts that occurred in a period of about 24 hours. The cars were taken Monday and Tuesday, and police say most were early to mid-1990s models. Police Capt. Greg B. Copeland says it's unusual to have so many vehicles of one type stolen in such a short period. Investigators believe at least some may be related to the arrest of a 25-year-old man late Monday. Police say numerous Honda parts were found at a home following the arrest, but two of the latest Honda thefts occurred after he was arrested. According to police there were an average of 2.3 car thefts a day last year in Yakima, population about 83,000.

Dolphin appears to guide whales to sea

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Most days, Moko the bottlenosed dolphin swims playfully with humans at a New Zealand beach. But this week, it seems, Moko found his mojo. Witnesses described Wednesday how they saw the dolphin swim up to two stranded whales and guide them to safety.

Before Moko arrived, rescue workers had been working for more than an hour to get two pygmy sperm whales, a mother and her calf, back out to sea after they were stranded Monday off Mahia Beach, said Conservation Department worker Malcolm Smith.

But Smith said the whales re-stranded themselves four times on a sandbar slightly out to sea from the beach, about 300 miles northeast of the capital, Wellington. It looked likely they would have to be euthanized to prevent a prolonged death, he said.

"They kept getting disorien-

tated and stranding again," said Smith, who was among the rescuers. "They obviously couldn't find their way back past (the sandbar) to the sea."

Then along came Moko, who approached the whales and appeared to lead them as they swam 200 yards along the beach and through a channel out to the open sea.

"Moko just came flying through the water and pushed in between us and the whales," Juanita Symes, another rescuer, told The Associated Press. "She got them to head toward the hill, where the channel is. It was an amazing experience."

Anton van Helden, a marine mammals expert at New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa Tongarewa, said the reports of Moko's rescue were "fantastic" but believable because the dolphins have "a great capacity for altruistic activities."

Jessie Vigil's vehicle is seen at his home in Las Vegas, N.M. in March 2007. Vigil's black-and-white car sports a red-and-blue emergency bar across the top and the word "police" painted on the doors.

LAS VEGAS, N.M. (AP) — Jessie Vigil's black-and-white car sports a red-and-blue emergency bar across the top and the word "police" painted on the doors. Vigil, however, isn't a cop. Law

enforcement agencies say what he's done with his car isn't illegal as long as he doesn't act like a police officer.

He started decorating his 2007 Ford Mustang last summer to

Honey drips out of Calif. family's walls

SAN MARINO, Calif. (AP)

The situation at the Stathatos house on Virginia Road is getting sticky. So many bees live in the walls of the stately Tudor home that honey drips out of the walls, discoloring the wallpaper in the dining room.

The bees had been good tenants, peacefully coexisting for years with the home's human residents, Helen and Jerry Stathatos.

But lately the house has become a hive of activity, with bees buzzing around an upstairs bedroom, said Dustin Mackey, a bee removal expert with Bee

Specialist.

Mackey made a house call in late February to vacuum the busy insects from a window frame and seal the floor in the bedroom.

"You walk into the house and it smells sweet," Mackey said. "I felt like I was in a jar of honey."

Mackey said Jerry Stathatos said the bee problem had been going on for at least 20 years, but living in an apiary never bothered the family.

Calls Wednesday to Helen and Jerry Stathatos were not returned.

Mackey said Stathatos decided against removing the

bees because it might require them to pull down several interior walls, where "thousands, maybe millions" of bees have taken up residence.

"They are making honey and we can't even get to it," Helen Stathatos told the San Gabriel Valley Tribune newspaper.

Just outside the front door, near a hole the bees use to enter the house, Mackey saw thousands of bees "just hanging in clumps."

"They've got the most beautiful garden you've ever seen, with flowers all around the house. It's the perfect environment for bees," said Mackey.

Vigil acknowledged people have mixed feelings about his car.

State police Capt. Craig Martin said the agency is "concerned for the safety of people who think he is an officer and think they may get help from him."

"People around town know who he is, but not those people on the interstate."



AP

Science & Technology

Researchers show off laser-guided robot

ATLANTA (AP)—The El-E robot looks like something you'd see in a Hollywood sci-fi flick: It's got two lenses spaced together just like eyes and a slender 5 1/2-foot-tall body. It spouts out wacky catch phrases when it accomplishes its goals.

But unlike android movie stars, the El-E isn't designed to behave like a human. Rather, its focus is interacting with us. It simply grabs stuff you point at with a laser.

"The entire world becomes a point and click interface. Objects become buttons. And if you point at one, the robot comes to grab it," said Charlie Kemp, the director of Georgia Tech's Center for Healthcare Robotics and the robot's designer. "It creates a clickable world."

The robot, which was unveiled Wednesday at an Amsterdam conference, will be tested this summer in a real-world setting involving patients with a degenerative disease. Its creators—from Georgia Tech and Emory universities—won't disclose the robot's cost, but there's hope it could be cheaper than service animals such as dogs or monkeys.

To command the El-E, the user points a laser at something for a few seconds. The robot

responds with a beep and then zeros in on the target. Once there, it lifts a mechanical arm and grabs the object. It begins the return trip when the laser is pointed at the user's feet, and it looks for a human face before handing over what it grabbed.

Kemp said engineers are often too focused on making robots behave like people, ignoring other ways they can interact.

"How can you make robots that are actually useful? That was bugging me," he said. "And it's a hard question to answer—that's why I'm happy with this. We made technical contributions as well as something that actually helps users."

The robot successfully fetches its target objects off the floor 90 percent of the time, researchers said.

This summer's test will involve patients with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease, which shuts down nerve cells responsible for movement.

"It will give these folks at least a level of independence," said Dr. Jonathan Glass, director of the Emory ALS Center and a part of the team developing the robot. "You don't have to feed it, and you can train it to do anything you want to do."

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
© 2008, The Washington Post



Q: If I try to install my old copy of Office XP in Windows Vista, will I run into any prohibitions or technical problems?

A: Microsoft says every version of its productivity suite since Office 2000 is "supported" in Vista, but Office 2000 and XP won't get any bug-fix updates for problems they experience in Vista.

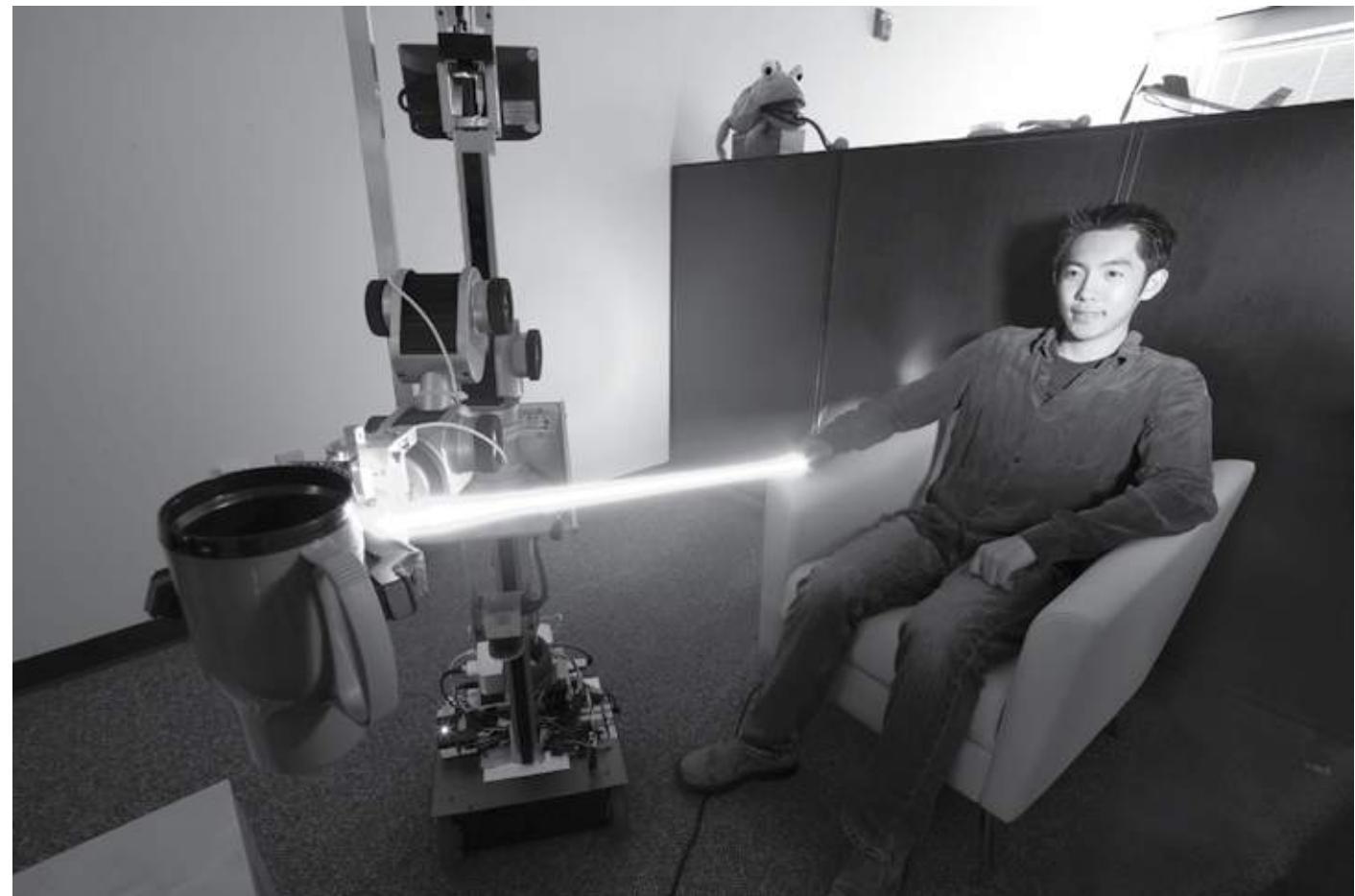
In other words, you're on your own. Multiple readers have told me they've had no issues running Office XP in Vista, so you should be fine running it on the new computer.

Installing it may be trickier. Office XP's "product activation" feature, intended to stop people from using Office without paying, will notice when your copy has been put on a new machine and ask you to reactivate it. Call the phone number listed on the screen; after you explain to a Microsoft representative that you've removed the copy from the old machine, you should get a new activation code.

This approach won't work with an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) copy that the old computer's vendor bundled with the machine. Those are only licensed for use on a single PC. If you'd rather not pay Microsoft for a newer version of Office, try the free, open-source OpenOffice (openoffice.org) or, if you have a broadband connection, the free Web-based productivity suites offered by Google (docs.google.com) and Zoho (zoho.com).

Q: One of Apple's software updates won't install —Mac OS X says it couldn't verify it. Redoing the install through Software Update didn't help.

A: If a file gets corrupted on its way to your machine, Software Update may not think to download it again. If that happens, you can get a fresh copy from Apple's Web site (apple.com/support/downloads); once it's downloaded, double-click the file to start installing the update.



Using a laser pointer, Hai Nguyen, a research student in Georgia Tech's Ph.D. program in Robotics, instructs the EL-E, a laser-directed robot, to pick up a cup at the Health Systems Institute in Atlanta, Friday, March 7, 2008. AP

Facebook app lets users send movie clips

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paramount Pictures will become the first major studio to make clips from thousands of its movies available for use on the Internet.

The unit of Viacom Inc. is teaming with Los Angeles-based developer FanRocket to launch the VooZoo application Monday on Facebook.

The service gives Facebook users access to footage from thousands of movies, ranging from "The Ten Commandments" to "Forrest Gump," to send to others on the popular social networking site.

"The short clips for a movie that you've already seen before helps you relive the mo-

ment," Paramount senior vice president of entertainment Derek Broes said.

The clips last from a few seconds to several minutes and cover the gamut from Eddie Murphy's guffaw in "Beverly Hills Cop" to Audrey Hepburn's pleases over her "no-name slob"

ON THE NET
VooZoo: <http://apps.facebook.com/voo-zoo>

cat in "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

The studio will market DVDs of the movies through a button that appears after each clip is played. It eventually wants to use the application to virally market upcoming releases.

For example, VooZoo is withholding clips from the "Indiana

Jones" series until it works out a way to market the May 22 release of the latest installment, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

FanRocket founder Danny Kastner said he is aiming to get a few hundred thousand users within two months and added that the company is in talks with other Hollywood studios to package their titles on VooZoo.

That could take time, however, since Paramount staffers needed more than a year to select clips from the archive and tag them with search terms.

Paramount said it has not set revenue goals for the new venture.

"My benchmark for success is that people are joining and sending," Broes said.

TECH BYTES

TiVo, YouTube to deliver videos to TVs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—TiVo users will be able to watch YouTube clips on their televisions by year's end, TiVo Inc. said Wednesday.

That's the latest move by YouTube to reach beyond the Web's regular boundaries. Fans of the popular online video provider can view its videos on their cell phones and Apple TV, a box that streams movies from people's computers to their TV.

Now TiVo users with a broadband Internet connection and a TiVo Series3 box, which includes the high-definition model, will be able to search, browse and watch YouTube videos directly on their TVs.

Each month, 66 million viewers watch about 2.6 billion videos on YouTube, according to the latest data by Nielsen Online. That's 57 percent the 116.7 million monthly online video viewers.

YouTube is owned by Google Inc., which paid \$1.76 billion for the company in November 2006. The site has not yet produced significant profits.

Japan investigates possible iPod defect

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is investigating a possible defect in Apple Inc.'s iPod after one of the popular digital music players reportedly shot out sparks while recharging, a government official said Wednesday. An official at the trade and economy

ministry, which oversees product problems, said a defect is suspected in the lithium-ion battery in the iPod Nano, model number MA099J/A. He spoke on customary condition of anonymity, saying he is reiterating a ministry position.

The problem surfaced in January in Kanagawa Prefecture southwest of Tokyo, and Apple reported the problem to the ministry in March. No one was injured, the official said. Other details weren't available. Apple

Acer to launch six-speaker movie laptop

NEW YORK (AP)—Acer Inc., the Taiwanese computer maker that bought Gateway last year, said on Tuesday that it now aims to take laptop users as close as they can get to the high-definition home theater experience.

The top model of the new "Gemstone blue" line of laptops has a screen with the same resolution as an a top-of-the-line HDTV, at 1,920 pixels by 1,080 pixels, and will have six speakers, including a subwoofer, for so-called "5.1" surround sound.

The computer will go sale next month in the U.S. for \$1,999. A model with three speakers and a smaller screen (but still HD resolution) will cost \$1,699. Both will have built-in Blu-ray disc drives.

The computer industry has long had its set of standard screen resolutions, while the consumer electronics industry has standardized on different ones. Acer's Blue line effectively adopts the consumer-electronics standard, which means that many movies and all HD TV shows will fill the screen, without black bars.

Acer said the laptops would be the first with 1,920-by-1,080 screens, and the top model is the first laptop with six speakers.

Island Snapshots



CHALLENGE BOWL CHAMPS

The Hopwood Junior High School team, represented by Jessie Joseph Santos, Marjorie Ann Cuero, Rachel Cabrera, Lallane Guiao and Edu Mari Banaag, together with their coach, Sharleen Crisostimo, are presented trophies after winning this year's edition of the CNMI Academic Bowl Challenge.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BEACH ROAD ACCIDENT

Police officer Glen Rabago investigates the severely damaged Toyota RAV4 after a three-car coalition involving an Isuzu truck and a Ford Club wagon in front of the Saipan Computer Services on Beach Road Thursday. The injured female driver of the RAV4 was rushed to Commonwealth Health Center. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Mark Laurence O. Esguerra, who celebrated his first birthday on March 9, 2008. He is shown here with proud parents Ferdie and Siony during the celebration held with friends and family at their residence in As Lito.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA



FAMILY FUN DAY

Parents and children check out the booths of the different government agencies that participated in the Division of Youth Services 2008 Family Fun Day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



LET FREEDOM SING

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and Taro Leaf Inc. representatives gather for a press conference for the upcoming "Let Freedom Sing 2008 Festival" at the Archive Room of the Northern Marianas College. From left, Debra Cabrera, Carmen Fernandez, Paz Younis, Herman Guererro, Edward Manglona, Cecilia Taitano-Celes, Laila Younis-Boyer and Carlene Reyes-Tenorio.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MVA KOREA

Staff of the Marianas Visitors Authority Korea check out the different sights of the islands during a recent visit to the CNMI. MVA recently appointed AVIAREPS Marketing Garden to manage the MVA office in Korea. Four of the new staff were part of this visit. While on Saipan, they visited various hotels and the tourist attractions of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HOUSE SESSION

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, Rep. Christina M. Sablan and Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb listen to Rep. Victor B. Hocog during Wednesday's session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



DC VISITORS

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio, second from right, is paid a visit by Northern Marianas College officials who were in Washington D.C. attending the NASULGC-CARET & CariPac meetings. In photo with Tenorio are CREES director Ross Manglona, Dean of Community Programs & Services Tee Abraham, and Community Development Institute director Dave Attao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

Tubera, Alovera triumph in singing contest

Seven-year-old Erika Tubera and 12-year-old Mary Antoinette Alovera blew away the competition to bag the championship trophies in the recently held Saipan Singing Superstars competition, held Friday last week at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

Tubera, a student of the Garapan Elementary School, wowed the judges with her rendition of the Whitney Houston classic *One Moment in Time* to win first place in the 4-to-9-years-old category. She won for herself the \$500 grand prize and a brand new cell phone from PTI.

Alovera, of the Grace Christian Academy, swept the competition in the 10-to-13-years-old category with an astonishing rendition of *I Have Nothing*, winning for herself \$500 and a brand new cell phone from PTI.

There were a total of three grand finalists for each category.

Miguel Andre Aninon, 8, of Mount Carmel School, took home the second prize trophy in the 4-9 category with *Yesterday's Dream*, winning \$300 and a brand new cell phone from PTI.

Eight-year-old Lizelle Salanga of Koblerville Elementary School was in third place, singing *Power of Love* to take home \$200 and a cell phone, also from PTI.

In the 10-13 category, 12-year-old Matthew Lopez of the San Vicente Elementary School secured for himself the second place spot with the Michael Bolton staple *How am I Supposed to Live Without You*. He won \$300 and a cell phone.

Shandell Cayabyab, 10, from Garapan Elementary School, was in third place with her rendition of *Follow Your Dream*. She won \$200 and a cell phone.

These six grand finalists were culled from scores of contestants that participated in the preliminaries that were held during the Friday Food Fair at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

The judges for the competition were John Jenkins, Jari Voutilainen, Marissa McGuire, Carlene Tenorio, and Jenny Aguon. The night's emcee was Oscar Yema.

The Friday Food Fair will be temporarily closed but will resume at the lobby during the next activities of Saipan Grand Hotel. (*Jayvee Vallejera*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Erika Tubera impressed the judges with her rendition of the Whitney Houston classic *One Moment in Time*.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mary Antoinette Alovera sings *I Have Nothing* to win the competition in the 10-to-13-years-old category.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The six grand finalists pose with the judges. Front row, from left, are Lizelle Salanga, Shandell Cayabyab, Mary Antoinette Alovera, Erika Tubera, Miguel Andre Aninon, and Matthew Lopez. Back row, from left, are Marissa McGuire, Jari Voutilainen, Jenny Aguon, John Jenkins and Carlene Tenorio.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 4-to-9-years-old category winners pose with John Jenkins and Jenny Aguon.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 10-to-13-years-old category winners pose with Jari Voutilainen and Marissa McGuire.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2007 and 2008 grand champions in the Saipan Singing Superstar competition perform for the crowd at the Club V.

'American Idol' axes first finalist

NEW YORK (AP)—A juicy backstory wasn't enough to keep David Hernandez on "American Idol." The 24-year-old ex-stripper from Glendale, Ariz., was dismissed Wednesday, leaving 11 aspiring singers to vie for the "Idol" title and a record contract.

"Honestly, things happen for a reason," Hernandez said before leaving the stage. "I think we all have a plan.... This isn't it for me."

Hernandez, who sang the Beatles' "I Saw Her Standing There," made headlines last week after it was revealed to The Associated Press that he worked as a stripper at a Phoenix club with a "mostly male" clientele.

Kristy Lee Cook, a 24-year-

old from Selma, Ore., and Syesha Mercado, a 21-year-old from Sarasota, Fla., rounded out the bottom three vote-getters.

Finalists had the opportunity to perform classics from the John Lennon-Paul McCartney songbook this week. The show's producers recently got permission to use songs belonging to Sony/ATV Music Publishing, a company formed by Sony and Michael Jackson.

The standouts were Carly Smithson ("Come Together"), Brooke White ("Let It Be"), David Cook ("Eleanor Rigby") and Chikezie ("She's A Woman").

David Archuleta, whose cover of Lennon's "Imagine" drew heaps of praise two weeks ago, showed that he's merely mortal

when he flubbed the lyrics to "We Can Work It Out." That didn't fly with Cowell, who called the 17-year-old's performance "a mess."

Wednesday's show also featured a performance by season-five finalist Katharine McPhee and musician David Foster (on the piano).

Contestants, rear left to right, Carly Smithson, Kristy Lee Cook, Ramiele Malubay, David Cook, Jason Castro, David Hernandez, Michael Johns, Chikezie, Syesha Mercado, David Archuleta, and front left to right, Amanda Overmyer and Brooke White attend the American Idol annual Top 12 Party Thursday, March 6, 2008 in West Hollywood, Calif.

AP



Little 'Idol,' big voice: Malubay, baby

By DAMIAN GRASS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MIRAMAR, Fla. (AP)—When Ramiele Malubay takes the stage on "American Idol," the 20-year-old with punkish blond streaks in her dark hair comes off as bubbly, polished and even a little edgy. That's not exactly the young woman her friends and family say was too shy to sing "Happy Birthday" a few months ago.

When her parents tried to get her to sing a karaoke version at high school friend Arthur "A.J."

Ke's birthday bash, the 20-year-old Malubay just hid in the corner and rolled her eyes.

"Since it was a really cheap karaoke machine, a bunch of the words were spelled wrong," Ke said. "But once she was up there, we were all cracking up, and we all ended up having a great time."

And if it wasn't for her father's prodding, the diminutive Filipino-American singer with the big voice probably wouldn't have auditioned a second time for "American Idol"—which means she wouldn't be standing

among the final 12 contestants on the top-rated Fox TV show. She was rejected in the initial stage last year and balked at going back.

"I think she was lacking a bit of that confidence and didn't want the people close to her expect too much from her," neighbor Isidra Yokose said Tuesday night at the lobby of Hilton Garden Inn in Miramar, where family and friends have been meeting every week to watch the show, cheer for Malubay—and furiously text in votes on their cell phones, of course.

"She is so incredibly special to us and to the rest of the Filipino community," added family friend Geny Panaligan-Ke, who organizes the "Watch 'N Vote 4 Ramiele" gatherings.

"I don't know where she gets it, but she definitely has the talent, the potential and the confidence to make it," Yokose said. "We are so proud of her, and we have all the faith in the world that she will make it big."

Before her good looks, tiny stature—she's 4-foot-11—and big voice made her a fan favorite, Malubay worked part-time as a waitress at a sushi restaurant in suburban Fort Lauderdale, where she grew up with her younger sister and her Filipino parents. The family moved to the United States from Saudi Arabia when she was 5.

She's aware of the comparisons to fellow Filipino Jasmine Trias, who finished third in the show's third season. But she wants to top that.

"First Filipino 'American Idol,' that's kind of still a surreal reach," Malubay said in an early "Idol" interview. "I don't want to be ahead of myself. I don't want it to go fast. I want it to just come as it does. I'm really excited to just get onstage and show everybody what I can do."

Malubay—pronounced "mah-loo-BYE"—also became the focus of a minor "Idol" scandal this season when Facebook photos of her goofing off with friends in provocative poses were made public. She doesn't understand the fuss.

"It's not a big deal," she wrote on a MySpace blog. "For me, those photos are not racy. But if you think they are, it's OK, that's your opinion. ... It has nothing to do with the show, which is looking for the next singing superstar and not looking for the perfect human."

Razor-tongued "Idol" judge Simon Cowell wasn't convinced she could get far at first, saying after her audition that she reminded him of a "hotel singer." But judge Randy Jackson disagreed, telling her "You definitely got a big voice for a very cute, smaller girl."

Since then, Cowell has acknowledged to feeling differently after watching her perform.

"I knew that Simon would come around," Panaligan-Ke said. "I knew she was going to impress them."

But Cowell came full circle on Tuesday, saying he was "bored to tears" by Malubay's version of the Beatles' "In My Life."

Charles, Camilla tour Marley museum

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Prince Charles and wife Camilla joined a group of Rastafarian musicians Wednesday for a drum session outside the old home of reggae great Bob Marley.

On a Caribbean tour to promote environmental protection, the royal couple were led through the home - now a museum honoring the late singer - by Marley's widow, Rita, and sons Robert and Rohan.

Charles and Camilla viewed memorabilia such as tour photos and a Gibson guitar favored by the singer, who rose to international stardom before dying of cancer at 36.

Earlier Wednesday, hundreds of people jostled each other for

a glimpse of the British royals during a visit to an impoverished community. Charles chatted with townspeople and planted a seedling at a community center in Rose Town, where his Foundation for the Built Environment is helping with revitalization efforts.

"It's quite a spectacle," local resident Dale Bent said of the touring royals.

The prince also inspected an honor guard in the capital.

Gov. General Kenneth Hall and British High Commissioner Jeremy Cresswell accompanied the royals, who are nearing the close of a five-island tour aboard a 246-foot yacht that boasts a hot tub, gym and 24-member crew.



AP
Contestant Ramiele Malubay attends the "American Idol" annual Top 12 Party in this, March 6, 2008, file photo in West Hollywood, Calif.

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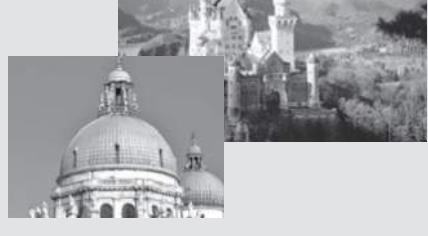
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Jury to deliberate Ritter death lawsuit

GLENDALE, Calif. (AP)—Attorneys in the wrongful-death lawsuit against John Ritter's doctors gave jurors drastically different views Wednesday on whether anything could have been done to save the actor on the night he died.

A proper diagnosis would have led to immediate emergency surgery and saved Ritter's life, family attorney Moses Lebovits said in closing arguments.

But lawyers for the two doctors being sued for \$67 million said they acted properly and insisted there was no way Ritter could have survived.

"We're not saying John Ritter was negligent and caused his own death," said attorney Stephen C. Fraser, addressing claims that Ritter failed to seek

adequate medical care long before he was stricken.

"There was nothing that could have been done to prevent John Ritter from having an aortic dissection. He didn't have it because he failed to do follow-up or didn't take his medication," Fraser said.

The jury was to begin deliberations Thursday.

Ritter died in 2003 at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank after becoming ill while working on his hit TV show "8 Simple Rules ... for Dating My Teenage Daughter."

The 54-year-old actor was treated for a heart attack but actually died of a torn aorta.

The plaintiffs claim that Dr. Joseph Lee, the cardiologist who was summoned to the hos-

pital that night, mishandled the case. They also claim that Dr. Matthew Lotysch, a radiologist, failed to adequately warn Ritter of a purportedly enlarged aorta after doing a body scan on the actor two years earlier.

Eight other medical personnel and the hospital have settled lawsuits. Ritter's widow, Amy Yasbeck, and his four children received \$14 million from those cases.

Fraser argued that his client, Lotysch, and Lee are experienced, highly regarded doctors who did the best they could under the circumstances.

"This was a rare presentation of a rare disease," Fraser said. "Before Dr. Lee got to the hospital, Mr. Ritter had been diagnosed (with a heart attack)."

Lee's lawyer, John McCurdy, said: "Dr. Lee was reasonable in believing he had a patient who was crashing and could die. ... He had to make a decision and he didn't have a lot of time to make it."

Lebovits said there was time to get a surgical team together and try to save Ritter's life, and time to get a chest X-ray that might have revealed the torn aorta.

"There was no need to rush," he said. "You could get that X-ray done and they didn't do it. They rushed to make the wrong diagnosis."

"You can't run away from the reality that John Ritter did not have to die," he concluded.

Testimony in the trial showed that a chest X-ray was ordered as soon as Ritter arrived at the emergency room but for unknown

reasons was never done. Lee was called in later in the evening after Ritter took a turn for the worse and was already diagnosed as having a heart attack.

Plaintiffs' witnesses testified that a decision to conduct a balloon angioplasty was wrong.

Lebovits said that had Ritter been properly diagnosed: "He would have had surgery. He

would have been back at work. He would have survived with his humor and good wit and been entertaining us all."

At one point, Ritter's widow collapsed in tears as Lebovits spoke of her loss.

"Amy's got to go to the next step alone," he said. "She's lost the love and affection. She's lost the one who was her soul mate."

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Fiction

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- 2** **7th Heaven**, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown: \$27.99) Inspector Lindsay Boxer is on the trail of a murderous arsonist and a missing teen.
- 3** **Strangers in Death**, by J.D. Robb (Putnam: \$25.95) Lt. Eve Dallas investigates why a man found strangled didn't struggle with his attacker.
- 4** **Beautiful Children**, by Charles Bock (Random House: \$25) A comic book illustrator and his stripper wife search Las Vegas for their 12-year-old son.
- 5** **Duma Key**, by Stephen King (Scribner: \$28) A man takes up painting as therapy, only to discover his canvases have an uncontrollable power over him.
- 6** **Lady Killer**, by Lisa Scottoline (Harper: \$25.95) Her client gone missing, a Philadelphia lawyer hides her connection to the woman's abusive boyfriend.
- 7** **The Reserve**, by Russell Banks (Harper: \$24.95) Romance among the elite and troubled in the Adirondacks of the 1930s.
- 8** **L.A. Outlaws**, by T. Jefferson Parker (Dutton: \$25.95) A teacher doubles as a thief on L.A.'s mean streets.
- 9** **A Thousand Splendid Suns**, by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead: \$25.95) Two Afghan women struggle to survive Taliban tyranny.
- 10** **His Illegal Self**, by Peter Carey (Knopf: \$24.95) A boy born to radicals is spirited to an Australian commune.

Nonfiction

- 1** **In Defense of Food**, by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press: \$21.95) A look at dietary sacred cows.
- 2** **The Secret**, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.
- 3** **The Age of American Unreason**, by Susan Jacoby (Pantheon: \$26) Our slide into anti-intellectualism.
- 4** **Pictures at a Revolution**, by Mark Harris (Penguin Press: \$27.95) How the best picture nominees of 1968 exemplify the end of the studio era.
- 5** **Send Yourself Roses**, by Kathleen Turner with Gloria Feldt (Springboard Press: \$24.99) The actress recounts her life and career.
- 6** **Liberal Fascism**, by Jonah Goldberg (Doubleday: \$27.95) Goldberg argues that modern liberalism's roots are not far removed from fascism.
- 7** **The Third Jesus**, by Deepak Chopra (Harmony: \$24) Chopra makes a case for a more mystical Christ.
- 8** **Reconciliation**, by Benazir Bhutto (Harper: \$27.95) The assassinated Pakistani leader's thoughts on bridging Islamic and Western cultures.
- 9** **I Am America**, by Stephen Colbert (Grand Central: \$26.99) The Colbert Report star expounds on the forces destroying the country.
- 10** **Women & Money**, by Suze Orman (Spiegel & Grau: \$24.95) How to harness your finances, fix your credit and save for retirement.

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Crystal looks 'mahvelous' in pinstripes

By BEN WALKER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- Billy Crystal came prepared. Black maple bat in hand, the New York Yankees newcomer brought a well-worn glove with his name neatly stitched on the side, too.

The hitting and fielding part, the comedian felt confident about. It was the drug test that had him worried.

"I'm supposed to bring blood and urine to the umpire tomorrow," he kidded Wednesday. "I might test positive for Maalox."

Quite a 60th birthday present for the actor, director, Oscar host and lifelong Yankees fan: A chance to play in an exhibition game Thursday at Legends Field.

Crystal certainly looked the part during his day-before workout. He kept the jokes to a minimum, made contact on all 52 swings against batting practice pitcher Tino Martinez and kept up with Derek Jeter in jogging drills.

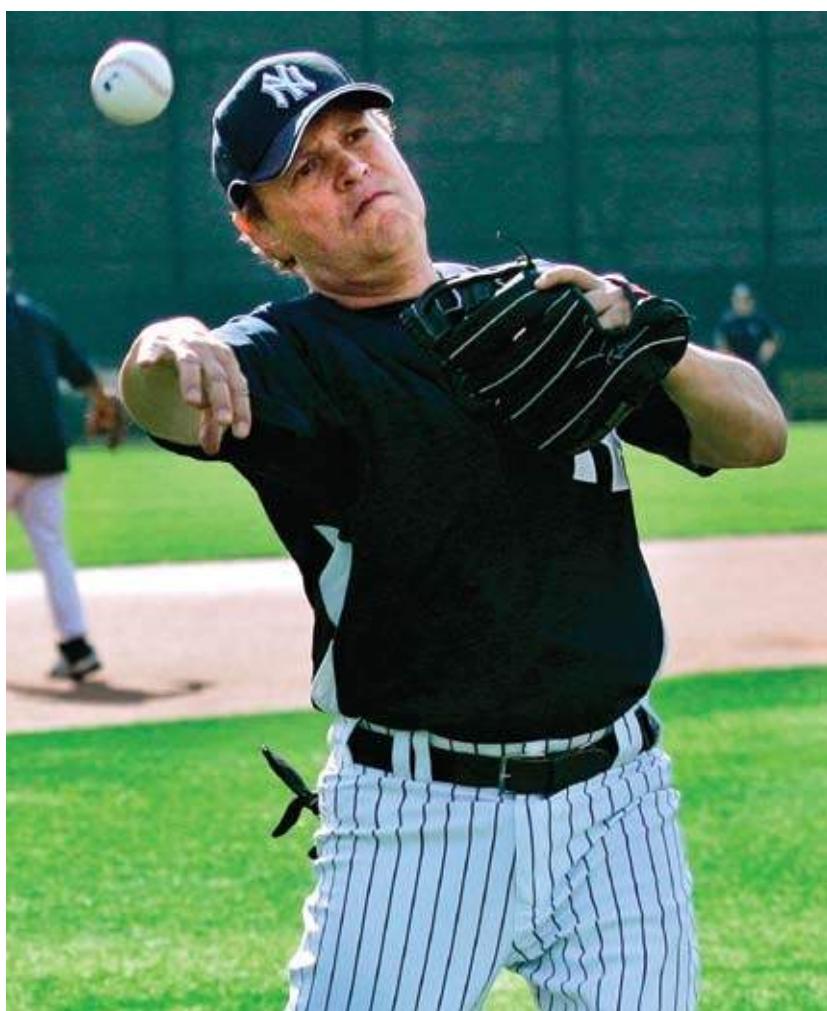
"He did fine," Jeter said. "He did a good job."

Crystal will become the latest celebrity to play in a spring training game, joining the likes of Garth Brooks, Tom Selleck and Bruce Hornsby.

Exactly what Crystal will do against Pittsburgh remains a mystery. He'll get to swing, but it's unclear if the former high school infielder will need his black Rawlings mitt.

Asked by a fan what position he'll play, Crystal quipped: "DH - designated Hebrew."

He did, however, have something



Actor and comedian Billy Crystal tosses a ball during a workout with the Yankees at Legends Field in Tampa, Fla., Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

special in mind for the Pirates. "A little Mazerossi payback," he said.

Crystal was a 12-year-old growing up in New York when Bill Mazeroski hit the famous bottom-of-the-ninth

homer that beat the Yankees in Game 7 of the 1960 World Series.

Crystal looked like a little boy again as he bantered with Reggie Jackson, hugged Jason Giambi and

received his No. 60 jersey from manager Joe Girardi.

Spotting newly elected Hall of Famer Goose Gossage in the clubhouse, Crystal made a beeline to the reliever and offered congratulations.

While a few tradition-laden critics complained that Crystal's appearance was a stunt that somehow offended baseball, Gossage said he had no problems.

"It doesn't bother me," the hard-throwing Goose said. "Of course, if I pitched to him, I'd flip him. I'd knock him down. And that would be the end of it."

Martinez, prodded by Jeter, playfully tossed a pitch behind Crystal's helmet during BP. Crystal was equal to the moment, walking toward the mound and pointing his bat.

Crystal ended the 90-minute session with his best swing of the afternoon. The righty lined what would've been a double down the left-field line, then lingered a few extra minutes talking with Triple-A hitting coach Butch Wynegar about mechanics.

"I was surprised. You could tell he's been working at it," Martinez said.

Crystal spent a lot of time practicing with Reggie Smith. The former star trained the actors to hit for "61," the HBO project that Crystal directed.

"Entertainment Tonight" and TV Guide cameras followed Crystal from the main field to a back diamond, and his wife, Janice, also shot her own video.

"He hasn't been too nervous," she said. "Naturally, when he steps in there and they're throwing 90 mph fastballs, that's a little different."

Crystal was a favorite of former Yankees manager Joe Torre and became something of a pinstripe mascot, once keeping them loose by taking infield with them before a World Series game.

Crystal signed a one-day minor league contract when he arrived at Legends Field, met with Girardi and then walked directly to his locker. Yankees prospect Mark Melancon previously occupied the cubicle.

"It's beyond belief," Crystal said. "But I didn't want to come in and step on anyone's toes. People have to get ready for the season."

Crystal was the third person in the clubhouse wearing No. 60. The number also belongs to special pitching instructor Rich Monteleone and young infielder Cody Ransom, who will switch to No. 67 for the Pirates game.

In the majors, players often give some sort of gift - maybe a Rolex - to someone who yields their number.

"We're in negotiations," Ransom said.

Commissioner Bud Selig approved this appearance and the Pirates sounded fine with Crystal's guest shot.

"He's been a big ambassador for baseball," Pittsburgh manager John Russell said. "It's a kid's game at heart and he has loved it since he was a kid. I have no qualms about it whatsoever."

Nor does lefty Paul Maholm, scheduled to start for the Pirates.

"It's a no-win situation for me," he said, smiling. "I'm supposed to get the guy out. If he gets a hit off me, though, I might have to hang 'em up after the game."

JACINTO TIMAYÓNG NGIRANGAU TAMAN

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Rosa Ngirangau Taman

Simeon S. Saralu

Olympia S. Saralu

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Rosa Taman,

Theresa Taman, Rosario T. Rios, & Ilibera T. Aichi

Jose N. Taman, Alonso N. Taman, Vicente N. Taman

& Fernando N. Taman

BROTHERS:

Vincent Lee S. Saralu

Vincent N. Taman & Fernando Taman

Mary Jane T. Rios

NEPHEW:

Donnico T. Teregeyo & Angelo R. Aichi

He will be remembered in the hearts of his:

WIFE:

Maria Dolores "Ling" Saralu Taman

CHILDREN:

Jim S. Taman/Maryann Manalo; Jermo S. Taman;

Dolaina S. Taman; Jazroy S. Taman; Sedona S.

Taman; Margarita T. Aguon/Don Aguon

GRAND CHILDREN:

Skylar Angelique, Mayleen and Tiana T. Aguon

Thomasa Taman Ada (Herman C. Ada)

Margarita S. Taman (†Jose), David N. Rios (†Rosario),

Dennis Aichi (†Ilibera), Telor Meliong (†Fernando),

Vicenta S. and Katarino Rosy(Kevina, Verina, Olyphia,

Eulelia & Keoni), and Elizabeth D. S. Saralu.

Numerous Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, Nephews & Nieces, Grand Nieces & Nephews, God Children & Friends.

Rosary is being said at 8pm nightly at his residence in Koblerville.

His remains will be escorted from CHC to his home on Sunday, March 16, 2008 at 4:30pm. Responso will be said at 7pm that evening followed by the midnight rosary. On Monday, March 17, 2008 at 8am, our dad's remains will be escorted to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 0830am, followed by Internment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Olomwaay from our family



'Girls Gone Wild' founder enters plea

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (AP)—"Girls Gone Wild" video empire founder Joe Francis pleaded no contest to child abuse and prostitution charges Wednesday under an agreement allowing him to go free after nearly a year in jail.

Francis, 34, returned to Florida after posting a \$1.5 million bond this week in Nevada, where he is awaiting trial for tax fraud. The hearing in Bay County state court resolved his 2003 criminal case involving the filming of underaged girls during spring break on Panama City Beach.

"I have never committed any crime. I pleaded guilty just to get out of jail," a defiant Francis said after the Bay County state court hearing. "A few corrupt individuals were able to keep an innocent man in jail for 11 months."

Francis makes an estimated \$29 million a year on videos of young women in sexually provocative situations.

He pleaded no contest to one count of felony child abuse and two counts of misdemeanor



AP
Joe Francis arrives to a party in Los Angeles in this Feb. 9, 2007 file photo.

Black's kung fu fighting with 'Panda'

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The last thing the martial-arts fans behind "Kung Fu Panda" wanted to do was make fun of the genre they were re-imagining for the animated world.

So while their leading guy is a tubby, klutzy panda with Jack Black's voice, the filmmakers have delivered a real kung fu movie in the guise of a cartoon comedy.

Directors Mark Osborne and

ShoWest, an annual convention of theater owners.

"Everybody on the crew was a big martial-arts movie fan," Stevenson said. "That was one of the reasons we didn't want to do a parody, because we actually love those movies. They're great movies. They're sort of like Westerns, these great archetypal tales of good and evil and great emotion and heroism. So we wanted to hon-

Fate lands the roly-poly panda an unexpected gig: He is declared the Dragon Warrior, destined to battle the evil snow leopard Tai Lung (Ian McShane), who has escaped from a prison fortress seeking vengeance against his former martial-arts master Shifu (Dustin Hoffman).

Placed under the tutelage of the dubious Shifu, Po trains alongside five true kung fu masters: Jolie's Tigress, Chan's Monkey, Liu's Viper, Seth Rogen's Mantis and David Cross' Crane.

While the movie is loaded with slapstick and wisecracks, the spirit is true to martial-arts epics that inspired the filmmakers, among them "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Hero" and "House of Flying Daggers."

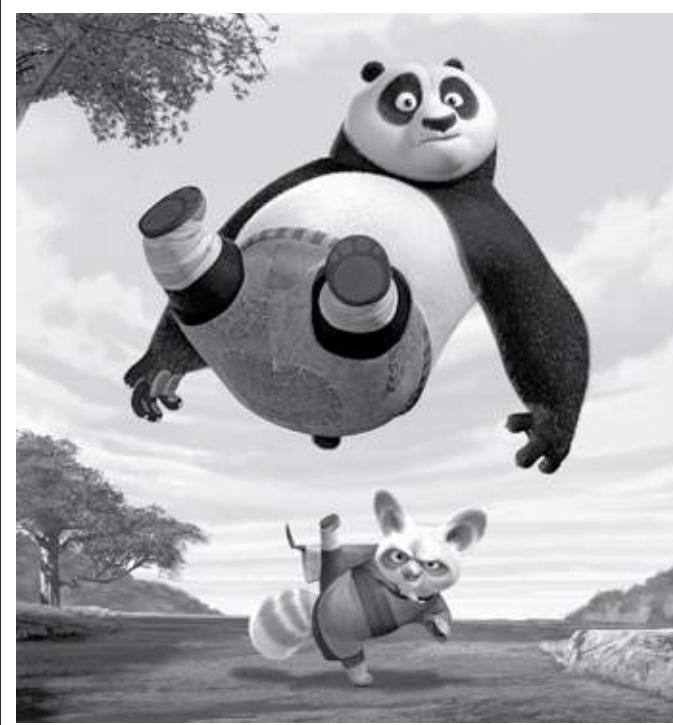
The fight scenes are exaggerated for the animated world, but they are real action sequences, intense and often fierce. Even voice star Chan, one of Hollywood's top martial-arts figures, was impressed.

"We thought early on about asking him to help consult and help us with our action, but he really deals with the physical world. He deals with bodies and props, so the virtual world was really foreign to him," Osborne said.

or that, not spoof it."

Due in theaters June 6, "Kung Fu Panda" is the latest computer-generated production from DreamWorks Animation, whose films include the "Shrek" flicks, "Madagascar" and "Over the Hedge."

Black provides the voice of Po, a panda in ancient China who idolizes the land's kung fu heroes but is stuck toiling in his family's noodle shop.



AP
This animated image released by DreamWorks Animation shows a scene from "Kung Fu Panda."

John Stevenson said they intended their panda hero and his comrades—including a tiger (Angelina Jolie), a viper (Lucy Liu) and a monkey (Jackie Chan)—to be the animal-world equivalent of the Asian action warriors they admire.

"With the title, it would be easy to expect maybe a parody of kung fu films," Stevenson said after a screening of "Kung Fu Panda" Tuesday night at

prostitution. He also pleaded no contest to two additional child abuse counts on behalf of his company, Mantra Films.

The charges were all that remained out of an original 73-count indictment brought after Bay County law officers raided Francis' hotel rooms and corporate jet in 2003. He also pleaded guilty in a 2007 case for having contraband—sleeping pills and cash—in the Bay County Jail.

Judge Deede Costello sentenced Francis to 339 days on Wednesday, the time he has already served in Florida and Nevada. Costello also ordered Francis to pay more than \$60,000 in fines, court costs and restitution to the county.

Francis also agreed that his company would not conduct any filming between Escambia and Jackson Counties in Florida for the next three years.

Miami defense attorney Roy Black brokered the plea agreement.

Francis believed the women his company filmed in 2003 were over 18 because they signed agreements stating they were of legal age, Black said.

"But it makes no difference under Florida law, they still committed a crime," Black said. "I understand why Joe is so upset. In his business, you can be doing your job and go to jail for 11 months."

Black and Francis' other attorneys have said the 2003 raid was retribution against Francis by Bay County officials who unsuccessfully tried to block his company from filming spring break that year.

A Bay County federal judge ordered Francis, who had remained free on bond since 2003,

back into custody last year after settlement agreements in a civil case brought by some of the underaged girls filmed by his company. Lawyers for the women said they were verbally abused by Francis and threatened during closed-door negotiations.

Bay County officials then revoked Francis' bond in the 2003 criminal case when jail guards said he tried to bribe them with cash for bottled water to swallow sleeping pills. Federal officials ordered Francis transported to Reno, Nev., pending trial there.

Francis stayed in Nevada in part because authorities in Bay County wouldn't allow bail in the case there. A federal judge in Nevada said the Florida bail issue had to be resolved first.

Francis said plea agreement negotiations are under way in the Nevada case and he hopes to resolve them soon.

"I'm going to go back to making videos, this afternoon," he said.

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IT THRIFTY TUESDAYS

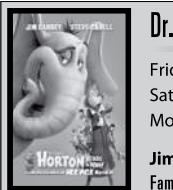
\$4.75 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS
EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

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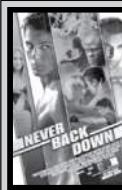


Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sat & Sun 1:15 4:20 7:05 9:35
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05 9:35
Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated PG13

Synopsis

An imaginative elephant named Horton hears a faint cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Although Horton doesn't know it yet, that speck houses an entire city named Who-ville, inhabited by the microscopic Whos, led by the Mayor. Despite being ridiculed and threatened by his neighbors, who think he has lost his mind, Horton is determined to save the particle—because "a person's a person, no matter how small."



Never Back Down

Friday 4:25 7:05 9:35
Sat & Sun 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:55
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30 9:55
Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Jake Tyler has recently moved to Orlando, Florida with his family to support his younger brother's shot at a professional tennis career. Jake was a star athlete on the football team at home, but in this new city he is an outsider with a reputation for being a quick tempered brawler. Making an attempt to fit in, at the invitation of a flirtatious classmate, Baja, Jake goes to a party where he is unwittingly pulled into a fight with a bully named Ryan McDonald.



10,000 BC

Friday 4:30 7:10 9:50
Sat & Sun 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10 9:50
Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Synopsis

In a remote mountain tribe, the young hunter D'Leh has found his heart's passion—the beautiful Ewot. But when a band of mysterious warlords raid his village and kidnap Ewot, D'Leh leads a small group of hunters to pursue the warlords to the end of the world to save her. As they venture into unknown lands for the first time, the group discovers there are civilizations beyond their own and that mankind's reach is far greater than they ever knew.



Rambo

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sat & Sun 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
Action, Adventure • Rated R

Synopsis

Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sat & Sun 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00 9:45

Jumper

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sat & Sun 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25 9:40
Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13



The Spiderwick Chronicles

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
Sat & Sun 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20 9:30
Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sat & Sun 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25 9:40
Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13

• NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

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www.gohollywood.com

'Hills' villain gets column in Radar mag

NEW YORK (AP)—If you've got a problem, yo—Spencer Pratt will solve it.

Pratt, who torments Lauren Conrad on "The Hills," is getting his own advice column in Radar magazine. Pratt and his squeeze, aspiring pop star Heidi Montag, are Conrad's archenemies on the popular MTV reality show, which returns with all-new episodes March 24.

Pratt's new column—titled "YO SPENCER!"—will debut in Radar's April issue, on newsstands March 25, the magazine announced Wednesday.

"Spencer is never afraid to speak his mind," Radar editor Maer Roshan said in a statement. "When asking for advice, it's good to have someone who will be brutally honest with you, and tell it like it is."

The magazine featured Pratt, 24, in a Q&A in its November 2007 issue.

'Good Time' puts country's Jackson on top

By RANDY LEWIS
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Alan Jackson has reason to sing the title track from his new "Good Time" album: It enters the national sales chart at No. 1 this week, the Georgia native's fourth collection to top the pop as well as the country rankings.

Following stylistic departures with the gospel "Precious Memories" and his collaboration with Alison Krauss, "Like Red on a Rose," "Good Time" returns Jackson to his traditional sound.

"Like Red on a Rose" debuted at No. 4 in 2006, even though it sold better—149,000 copies—during its first week in stores than "Good Time," which sold 119,000.

The biggest surprise addition to the Top 10 this week is Flogging Molly's "Float," the Los Angeles-based, Irish-rooted rock band's sixth album. It enters the chart at No. 4 on sales of 48,000, edging past the Black Crowes' "Warpaint," which sold 46,000 and lands at No. 5. Flogging Molly's previous album, "Whiskey on a Sunday," posted first-week sales of 14,000 and peaked at No. 67, according to Billboard.

The only other Top 20 debut is Michael McDonald's "Soul Speak," which enters at No. 12 with sales of 28,000, according to the Nielsen SoundScan retail sales monitoring service.

Last 'Harry Potter' book becomes 2 films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Potter was the center of seven novels, but he'll star in eight films. The final book in the wildly successful series will be made into two films, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday.

Producers are expected to announce Thursday that J.K. Rowling's last "Potter" installment, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," will be split into two parts on the big screen. The first film is slated for release in November 2010, with part two following in May 2011.

"It was born out of purely creative reasons," producer David Heyman told the Times. "Unlike every other book, you cannot remove elements of this book."

The two final "Potter" films will be shot concurrently, much like the blockbuster trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's epic fantasy novel "The Lord of the Rings."

Another famous Tolkien tome, "The Hobbit," is also being split into two live-action movies set for back-to-back shooting to begin next year.

Filming on the sixth "Potter" flick, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," began in September.

"It's been brilliant," said star Daniel Radcliffe. "It's also, I think, the funniest of the films so far."

The "Potter" film franchise has pulled in \$4.5 billion at the worldwide box office.



AP
British writer J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series of books, is shown in London in this, Dec. 10, 2007, file photo.



Mariah fills in for sick Janet on 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" has replaced a flu-ridden Janet Jackson with another diva: Mariah Carey. Carey, 37, will fill in for Jackson on the March 15 "SNL" telecast, NBC announced Wednesday.

Jackson, 41, was scheduled to perform live Saturday night in support of her latest album, "Discipline," which was released last month. The singer's publicist, Patti Webster, said Tuesday she dropped out because she has the flu and "needs some time to get better."

Carey's latest album, EMC2, arrives April 15.

Singer Mariah Carey makes an appearance on MTV's Total Request Live, in this Feb. 27, 2008, file photo in New York.

Savings plan for parents is better late than never

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 26 and concerned about my parents' future. They are in their late 40s and have absolutely nothing saved for retirement. Dad has a physically demanding job and won't be able to do it forever, and they are currently in debt up to their ears.

There are six kids in our family. I appreciate the fact that my parents are blowing off some steam when it comes to spending money, since they were unable to do it while we were all younger. However, I feel it's time they look at the big picture.

If something was to happen to Dad or he was unable to work, they'd lose everything. At this point, they will be unable to pay for any of their own expenses when they're older, and my siblings and I don't have money to support them. Our youngest brother still lives at home and is adopting the same spending habits as Mom and Dad.

How would you recommend we speak to our parents? They tend to be sensitive about these matters. Do you know of any articles or books we could reference when speaking to them?

—PENNYWISE IN ST. PETE, FLA.



Dear Abby

DEAR PENNYWISE: Assuming that you and your four adult siblings are equally concerned about your parents' welfare, you should approach them as a group. It's still not too late for them to start saving and investing for their retirement years. And you and the others could help them by offering to match what they save each month. Even a small amount adds up.

If the five of you each put in \$20 a month (\$100), and your parents put in \$100, at the end of a year they would have \$2,400. By the time your father was ready to retire in 20 years, they'd have some serious money put away—not counting any increase in the value of their investments.

The U.S. General Services Administration Federal Citizen Information Center offers free information that could help you. Log on to www.pueblo.gsa.gov and look under the heading "Retirement Planning" in the "Money" section. You'll find lots of good advice, and you can even order free and low-cost booklets on saving and investing and much more. Or call (888) 8-Pueblo ((888) 878-3256) for a free Consumer Information Catalog. Also check your local library.

Your parents may or may not be receptive to this idea. However, if you turn the matching money into a "game," they'll be more likely to go for it. Good luck.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, against the advice of my friends and family, I forgave my ex-boyfriend. He swore he loved me and wanted to spend the rest of his life with me. I let him back into my life and let him talk to me about marriage and the future.

Within a few months he was up to his old tricks again, chasing other women, so I had to send him packing.

How do I forgive myself for being so stupid? I believed he loved me, and I am furious with myself for falling for his charm and his lies. My family isn't being very supportive because they didn't want me to reconcile. Please help me.

—FOOLED ME TWICE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR FOOLED: Please stop beating yourself up. You're an optimistic person who believed in second chances, and your ex-boyfriend abused your trust.

Now that you understand he is incapable of change, it's time to learn from this experience and go on with your life. We learn more from our mistakes than our successes—and the lesson you will take from this is to draw the line sooner if you notice a person's words don't match his deeds.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

HBO picks up 'No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency'

HBO has picked up a television series based on Alexander McCall Smith's book "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" and its popular sequels, which relate the adventures of Precious Ramotswe, a no-nonsense in-

vestigator who runs a detective agency in Botswana.

A two-hour pilot, starring Jill Scott ("Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?"), recently was filmed on location in Botswana, directed by Anthony Minghella,

who co-wrote the script with Richard Curtis. HBO, in partnership with the Weinstein Co. and the BBC, ordered 13 additional one-hour episodes of the series, which will begin filming this summer. (*Los Angeles Times*)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



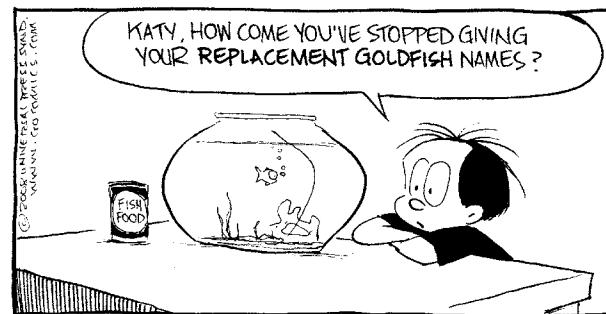
By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



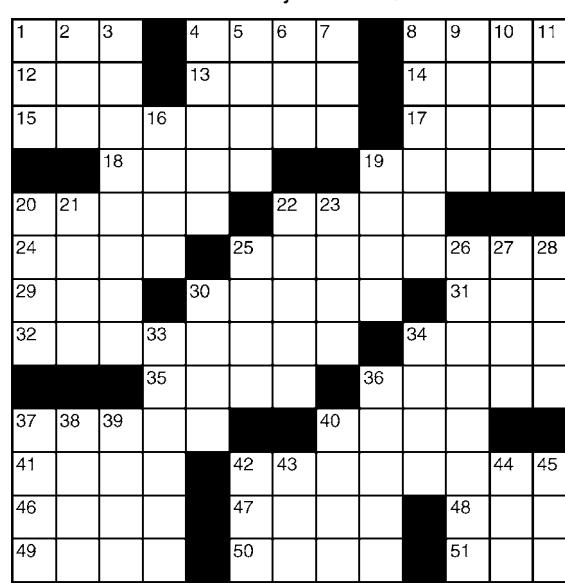
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS							
1 Rotten	37 Doctrine	4 Hold-up	22 Team				
4 Sax range	40 Lima's land	5 Bank trans-	23 Sound of content-				
8 Stare	41 Hodge-podge	action	ment				
12 Quarter-back	42 Send	6 Middle X?	25 Unrivaled				
Manning	46 Afflictions	7 Praise in verse	26 Called into question				
13 Frog's cousin	47 Roughly	8 Sink	27 Huron neighbor				
14 Responsibility	48 Unfrozen glace	9 Freshly	28 Peruse				
15 Move	49 Farewell	10 New Mexican tribe	30 Animal protection org.				
17 Lairs	50 1/746 horse-power	11 Being, to Brutus	33 Champagne + O.J.				
18 Blueprint	51 "The 5,000	16 Strata-gem	34 Emanation				
19 Knife eponym	Fingers of —"	19 Arthur and	36 Station				
20 Frizzy hairdos	SOLUTION	Lillie	37 —				
22 Jet forth	1 Foundation	20 Farm measure	-yourself				
24 Satiate	2 Frazier	21 Show off the biceps	38 Earthenware pot				
25 Waste	3 Belie	39 Coated with gold	40 "Hey, you!"				
29 Clergyman's title (Abbr.)	SOLUTION	42 DuPont rival	41 "Hey, you!"				
30 Becomes rancid	43 George's brother	44 Jam ingredient?	45 Shack				
31 Anger	44 Jam ingredient?	45 Shack					
32 Model							
34 Largest of the seven							
35 On the rocks							
36 Put one over on							

Yesterday's answer 3-14

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features Service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Taylor Hanson, 25; Billy Crystal, 60; Michael Caine, 75; Quincy Jones, 75

Happy Birthday: Deal with any emotional issues promptly so you can get on with what's really important to you. A creative opportunity is apparent. You will impress the people you encounter with your insight and your ability to provide interesting solutions. Your numbers are 3, 19, 23, 27, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Discuss any pressing emotional matters so they can be resolved. If you show you are interested in making a difference or an attempt to make things better, you will grab the attention of those you need to convince. ☀️☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get your priorities straight so you don't miss a beat when it comes to getting things done. If you have everything planned out to your specifications, you can be more creative and versatile—thus, achieving the results you're after. ☀️☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your persuasive talents will be at an all-time high but don't go overboard offering something you cannot deliver. If you venture too far from the truth, you may be asked to do something you don't have a clue how to do. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): High energy coupled with unique ideas and a little creativity should move you in the right direction. A sensible approach to something you've been considering can now be put into play. Travel will bring better results than anticipated. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love is on the rise and someone you think highly of will be able to offer you some very interesting suggestions for a project you are undertaking. Travel will help you resolve issues. An opportunity will come through an old friend. ☀️☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't wait for someone's approval—move forward on your own. Emotional issues are bound to set off a feud, especially if you have left someone out of your plans. Be prepared to make concessions to accommodate someone important to your future. ☀️☀️

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put a little extra effort into the creative side of whatever you are doing. Whether it is in

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't sit idle when there is so much you can accomplish. Once you have laid out the ground rules with those with whom you want to partner, you will be free to move forward with confidence and assurance. ☀️☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talk about your concerns, your dreams and your plans with the people you feel most comfortable with. A close bond will form with someone you work with. Be careful that you aren't stepping into forbidden territory. ☀️☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refrain from getting into lengthy conversations that will cause upset. You may need to keep a secret. Overspending on home improvements or the people you live with will set you back further than you think. ☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love is on the rise and someone you think highly of will be able to offer you some very interesting suggestions for a project you are undertaking. Travel will help you resolve issues. An opportunity will come through an old friend. ☀️☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't wait for someone's approval—move forward on your own. Emotional issues are bound to set off a feud, especially if you have left someone out of your plans. Be prepared to make concessions to accommodate someone important to your future. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your feelings and emotions aside if you want to get ahead. Taking matters too personally will work against you and could even result in a loss if you aren't careful. Keep your secrets well protected from people who may use them against you. ☀️

Birthday Baby: You are unusual, creative and imaginative. You are relentless, powerful and know how to reassure others so that you can get your way. You are passionate, engaging and farsighted.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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your personal or professional life, taking a unique approach will surprise the people you deal with and help you get results. Love is in a high cycle. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your ideas to the test. Praise is in the picture, making it vital to present your ideas or something you have already completed. A passionate approach to life will capture someone's attention and will complement what you are doing. ☀️☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your feelings and emotions aside if you want to get ahead. Taking matters too personally will work against you and could even result in a loss if you aren't careful. Keep your secrets well protected from people who may use them against you. ☀️

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	9		6					
3	2	1	5					
5						7		
5	2						4	
9							5	
7							8	1
2						1		
8	2	9	4					
8								

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	7	4	5	9	2	8	1
8	9	4	1	2	6	5	7	3
5	1	2	7	3	8	6	4	9
7	5	8	2	9	3	4	1	6
2	4	6	5	7	1	3	9	8
9	3	1	8	6	4	7	2	5
4	7	9	3	1	5	8	6	2
1	2	3	6	8	7	9	5	4
6	8	5	9	4	2	1	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

3/14

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GOOD KARMA

S	U	T	T	H	H	I	W	E	V	O	(L)	G	H
W	N	R	S	R	E	T	O	P	T	I	M	(I)	S
O	I	O	T	M	A	L	I	B	A	F	(F)	G	A
R	V	P	I	E	F	N	P	F	F	T	N	(E)	N
T	E	P	U	T	Y	R	S	O	O	L	R	I	E
H	R	U	R	S	A	G	D	M	I	R	E	E	S
Y	S	S	F	Y	A	N	R	T	I	A	P	T	A
N	E	N	E	S	E	F	A	E	P	T	K	U	E
O	I	R	O	I	A	S	N	M	N	A	S		

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

PACIFIC TRADING CO., LTD.

Is seeking qualified individuals for the following positions:

Sales Manager (Beverage)

Job Description:

Plan, organize and implement strategic measures to promote development of various products and activities of the company. Develop and implement cost effective programs to ensure increased productivity and revenue. Responsible for the daily operations, collections and product distribution. Supervise, train and develop sales and production team to maximize staff potential. Prepare various sales reports needed by the management

Qualification:

- At least 2-3 years manager work experience in Sales & Marketing
- Computer literacy in MS Office Programs (Word & Excel) and other Software
- Must be result-oriented, self motivated, positive work attitude, self confident, proficient in English and excellent teamwork skills
- Willing to work long hours, nights, weekends and holidays
- Must have a valid driver's license and police clearance
- College degree, a plus

Sales Representative

Job Description:

Responsible for direct sales to key accounts and off-premise accounts. Merchandise and maintain account per stock. Ensure delivery of products, assists supervisor in planning, developing and implementing sales and marketing strategic measures to promote various products and activities of the company. Responsible for the daily sales, collections, product distribution of assigned areas; and, compliance of company policies and directives. Other duties that may be required by management from time to time.

Qualification:

- At least 2-3 years working experience in sales or related field.
- Must be result-oriented, self motivated, positive work attitude, self confident, and excellent teamwork skills
- College degree and computer literacy, a plus
- Must have a valid CNML driver's license & clean traffic abstract
- Willing to work long hours

Accountant

Job Description:

Will be assigned to any of the following functions: Cashiering/invoicing; preparing sales and collection reports; ensure accuracy of inventory; analyzing procedures and prepare recommendations; conduct physical inventory count; handle A/P, A/R or GL books; prepare various accounting reports; and other related duties to be assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification:

- At least 2-3 years working experience - in a similar industry, if possible
- Accounting graduate
- Computer literacy in MS Office Programs (Word & Excel) and other Software
- Must have strong communication skills, analytical skills, and attention to details
- Must be honest, reliable, trustworthy and with excellent teamwork skills.
- Willing to work long hours or on weekends.

Pacific Trading Co., LTD. is an equal opportunity employer.

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Tel: (670) 322-5483 • Fax: (670) 322-5616 email: charles@ptcsaipan.com

Interested applicants may apply in person
or send résumé via email to charles@ptcsaipan.com
no later than March 28, 2008

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

 Worldwide Company. Need ambitious self-starters. Meeting at Fiesta Resort, 8:00PM March 13 or 9:00AM March 17. Xango distributors welcome to bring guests.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

(FSUN 0046)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 MARKETING MANAGER

(FSUN 0052)
Salary:\$1,200.00-\$1,500.00/month. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arrange; medical & workers compensation insurance employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writing is a must. Contact: Blue Star Corporation dba Saipan Island Tour @287-1259.

1 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR

(FSUN 0053)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Fashion Company dba Li Hua Dress Shop @234-1282.

1 GENERAL MANAGER

(FSUN 0054)
Salary:\$615.33-\$800.00/month. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: American Global Voice Ltd. dba VIP Massage @233-8119.

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233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

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"AS IS" CONDITION: NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED

YEAR:	MAKE:	MODEL:	LIC NO:
1997	MITSUBISHI	MIRAGE	ABJ 566

The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc. (FISG) is now accepting sealed bids on the above mentioned vehicle at the main office located in the Cabrera Center on Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

FISG reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All vehicles are sold "As Is" with No Warranties expressed or implied.

Deadline for submission of bids is on Thursday, March 20, 2008.

For more information, contact Diego Masga, Collection Department at 234-5706 or 234-8615.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES**1 GENERAL MANAGER**

(FSUN 0055)
Salary:\$650.00-\$750.00/monthly.
Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Dolphin Brain Inc. @233-0174.

1 MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

(FSUN 0056)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER

(FSUN 0057)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

1 GAS ATTENDANT (FSUN 0058)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

1 COOK HELPER (FSUN 0059)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; worker compensation insurance. Contact: Park Corporation dba Dae Jang Kum Restaurant @234-9595.

1 COMMUNICATION INVENTORY TECHNICIAN (WF 0013)

Salary:\$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Guam Cellular & Paging Co. dba Saipancell at tel. no. 235-7243.

1 MAINTENANCE MACHINISTS (WF 0014)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Asinta B. Pangelinan dba Asin's Mini Mart/Fish Market at tel. no. 235-5290.

1 COOK (WF 0015)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Asinta B. Pangelinan dba

Asin's Catering/Snack Mobile at tel. no. 235-5290.

1 CHECKER (WF 0016)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing at tel. no. 235-6465/2677.

1 ELECTRICIAN (WF 0017)

Salary:\$3.55 - \$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Crisanta M. Travilla dba Island Electrical Services at tel. no. 234-8385.

1 STOREKEEPER (WF 0018)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Susan S. Castro dba Solomon Enterprises at tel. no. 256-7656.

1 BEAUTICIAN (WF 0019)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer.

provided. Contact: Paulina A. Pascual dba Hibiscus Salon @788-9069/235-5122.

1 MASON (WF 0020)

Salary:\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (WF 0021)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; duty meal only; medical & workers compensation insurance provided. Contact: Kuri Enterprises, Inc. dba Kuri-Ya Restaurant @234-5878.

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE (WF 0022)

Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Robert & Agnes Schrack @288-1317.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0023)

Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical expenses provided by employer. Contact: Leticia

R. Stoltenberg dba Janrome Gen. Services @484-2597.

1 HOUSEWORKER (WF 0024)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; transportation self arranged & medical expenses. Contact: Hasinta Omelau @235-6771.

1 ACCOUNTANT (WF 0025)

Salary:\$4.25-5.25/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self arrange food; transportation employer provided; workmen's compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Pacific Drilling Ltd. dba General Construction Contractor @235-8531.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE (WF 0026)

Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food & workmen's compensation. Contact: The Valley Inn, Inc. dba The Valley Inn, Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

1 ELECTRICIAN (WF 0027)

Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food; & workmen's

compensation. Contact: The Valley Inn, Inc. dba The Valley Inn, Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0028)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: None/ Self provided housing; none/self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: Sablan Topline Company, LLC @235-5206.

1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (WF 0029)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Tand T Sakura Corporation @235-8308.

2 REST. COOK (WF 0030)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION****AMENDED #02 INVITATION FOR BID**

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

IFB NO.: NMHC - IFB08-006A – ROTA
NMHC - IFB08-006B – TINIAN

AMEND DATES OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE
FOR: Building Maintenance of Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at any of the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; or Songsong Village, Rota, beginning February 27, 2008, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Two (2) separate mandatory Pre-Bid Conferences will each be held on the Islands of Rota and Tinian. In Rota, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located on the 1st Floor of the Sunset Villa Hotel in Sonton, Rota on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., and in Tinian, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village at 10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. on Thursday March 20, Wednesday, March 19, 2008. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Bidders are reminded that this announcement covers two (2) separate bids—one for Rota, and one for Tinian.

Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. NMHC IFB08-006A - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (ROTA) or NMHC IFB08-006B - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (TINIAN). An original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, **March 27, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid.

Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, **March 27, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, the official government postal service of a foreign country, or a commercial courier, no later than **March 27, 2008**, and must be received no later than **April 7, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 am, local time **April 8, 2008**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 am, local time on **March 27, 2008**.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.50 per hour.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota and Tinian.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to ecfekeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLÁN
Chairman of the Board

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLÁN
Director, Procurement & Supply

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for the RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION at the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PACKAGE 2, Phase 1, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-002-50/53 will be received at the office of the ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until **2:00 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2008**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of: Connection of storm drainage pipe to the new water reservoir, excavation through parallel Taxiway "A", demolishing and filling of the existing reservoir site; conversion of Taxiway "A" into a temporary runway including removal to taxiway lights and installation of runway lights, and storm drainage system.

The project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the Phase 1 project in its entirety shall be **Three Hundred Sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages for each phase shall be in accordance with G-100-3.4. The Contractor shall be assessed liquidated damages for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set CD-Rom of plan documents. This amount is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, U.S. postal money order, or cashiers check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m.** on **Monday, March 17, 2008** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to CPA, in writing to the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at least seven (7) days in advance for answers at this pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond, a certified check, or



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The board of directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies. Applicants can be from Tinian, Rota and Saipan.

The Council's board comprises thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms and can be renewed once only. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our community. The ideal candidates will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Council members are expected to engage in creative development of programs; encourage grant applicants and recipients on their programs; and be active in the Council activities as well as the administrative requirements. Council members are unlike the usual board membership in that they are often called upon to participate in programs; develop programs; and promote programs of the Council.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Council's mission is to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth.

Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually.
- Attending periodic committee meetings.
- Evaluating Council programs and activities.
- Reviewing grant applications.
- Raising funds.
- Providing input from the community.
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings relating to the humanities.
- Willing to spend from 2-4 hours per month on Council activities, particularly as Chair of a committee.

Interested residents are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Herman T. Guerrero, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or fax them to the Council at 235-4786. Letters and resumes must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on **March 26, 2008**. For additional information please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at <http://nmi.humanities.org>.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 DRESSMAKER (WF 0031)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GEORGE N. RIOS, Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0123(B)
versus	ORDER
MARIANA S. RIOS, Respondent.	

Petitioner, George N. Rios has petitioned this Court for an Order to Appear and Plead on his Complaint for Divorce.

Petitioner shall publish the Summons once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a local newspaper of general circulation the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Petitioner shall post the Summons at the House of Justice bulletin board on Saipan for a period of not less than thirty (30) days.

IT SO ORDERED this 14th day of April, 2004.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

1 FOOD SERVICE SUP. (WF 0032)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 SALES PERSON (FSUN 0062)

Salary:\$650.00-\$750.00/monthly. Benefits: ER provided housing; self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0063)

Salary:\$600.00-\$850.00/monthly. Benefits: ER provided housing; self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (FSUN 0064)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation provided. Contact: Blue Horizon Ent., Inc. dba Blue Horizon @233-7871.

1 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR (FSUN 0065)

Salary:\$4.40/hour. Benefits: Liability insurance & workers compensation provided. Contact: Blue Horizon Ent., Inc. dba Blue Horizon @233-7871.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (FSUN 0066)

Salary:\$3.65/hour. Benefits: Free housing; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: A&L Corporation dba Tropicana Gameroom @233-1203.

**Subscribe to CNMI's
FirstDaily Newspaper**

235-NEWS



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW08-RFP-016

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN OF PRECINCT IV SECONDARY ROADS & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design of Precinct IV Secondary Roads & Drainage Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement of this RFP is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 07, 2008 at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center Office. Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled on March 28, 2008. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 04, 2008.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements:

1. Professional Qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of services- 25%
2. Project approach - 25%
3. Capacity to accomplish the work in the required time- 25%
4. Past performance on contract with Government on similar project- 25%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW08-PFP-016". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008 and must be received no later than April 22, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made wherefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals may be solicited upon public announcement, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. Such fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable contract price.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) with local matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Interior (DOI/OIA).

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project. Including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ JOSE S. DEMAPAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal RFP 08-013

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for services to be rendered under the MHS Safe Haven Program. **The Marianas High School Safe Haven Program is a unique program with the goal of providing a safe, clean environment for after school hours, weekends, and summer vacations for organized and open sports and fitness activities.**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via the following e-mail address: delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

**/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education**

**/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer**

Rockets top Hawks for 20th straight win



ATLANTA (AP)—The Houston Rockets became the third team in NBA history to win 20 consecutive games, tying for the league's second-longest winning streak with an 83-75 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

The Rockets joined the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers (33 straight) and 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks (20) as the only teams to win 20 or more in a row.

Tracy McGrady scored 21 of his 28 points in the second half and Shane Battier had 15 points as Houston struggled to preserve their winning streak. They were held to their lowest first-half total during the span and trailed 33-32 at halftime.

A basket by Atlanta's Marvin Williams with 5 seconds left in the game ended the Rockets' streak of 10 straight wins by 10 or more points. Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 28 points, and Josh Smith had 16 points and a career-high 22 rebounds.

With the Rockets leading 71-70 with 5 minutes remaining, McGrady scored five points in Houston's 10-0 run to take control.

Houston led 59-57 at the end of the third quarter, but Atlanta's Zaza Pachulia opened the fourth with two free throws. Minutes later, he was called for a technical foul after arguing an offensive foul. Battier made the free throw to give the Rockets a 66-62 lead.

Atlanta closed to 71-70 when Chuck Hayes and Luis Scola scored on back-to-back baskets.

After Smith was denied inside, McGrady stretched the lead to 77-70 with a jumper which bounced twice on the rim before falling through the net. McGrady added a 3-pointer with 1:53 left for an 81-70 lead to cap the 10-0 run.

Houston allowed only 89.3 points per game during its 19 straight wins and it set a low scoring pace against the Hawks, who responded to the challenge with strong defense.

McGrady made only two of 10 shots from the field and three of six free throws in the first half as the Rockets shot only 27.9 percent from the field.

Despite a combined 31 rebounds by Smith and Al Horford, the Rockets held a 56-52 edge on the boards and an 18-



Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady, right, drives against Atlanta Hawks forward Marvin Williams, left, during the first quarter of an basketball game, Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at Philips Arena in Atlanta.

had 29 points and 10 rebounds as New Orleans pulled within a half-game of the division lead behind the Spurs and Houston Rockets.

Tim Duncan had 24 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio, which shot only 2-of-18 from 3-point range and a dreadful 7-of-17 on free throws.

Jazz 114, Bucks 110

At Milwaukee, Carlos Boozer had a go-ahead layup with 46.7 seconds and Utah narrowly avoided another surprising road loss. Deron Williams led Utah with 26 points and 13 assists, his ninth straight double-double.

Charlie Villanueva and Michael Redd scored 26 points each to lead Milwaukee, which nearly pulled out a victory thanks to Charlie Bell's season high five 3-pointers that allowed Milwaukee to take a 99-89 lead.

Mavericks 118, Bobcats 93

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points in 28 minutes, and Josh Howard added 24 points as Dallas snapped Charlotte's franchise-record five-game winning streak.

The Bobcats have never beaten the Mavericks—or even scored 100 points against them—in the eight-game series. Raymond Felton had 21 points to lead Charlotte.

Nuggets 108, Grizzlies 86

At Denver, Kenyon Martin scored 23 points, and Carmelo Anthony had 14 points and 13 rebounds to lead Denver.

Allen Iverson played with a fractured ring finger on his right hand and had just eight points on 2-for-12 shooting and didn't play in the fourth quarter.

Juan Carlos Navarro had 16 points off the bench for Memphis, which has lost 16 straight road games.

Warriors 117, Raptors 106

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis scored 33 points, and Baron Davis had 23 points and 15 assists in the Golden State Warriors' seventh victory in eight games.

T.J. Ford scored 13 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter for the Raptors, who lost for the sixth time in eight games. Toronto played its seventh straight game without leading scorer Chris Bosh, who hopes to return from his sore right knee during the trip.

NBA BRIEFS

Wade has shockwave treatment

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade didn't wait long to begin rehabilitating his injured left knee. The Miami Heat guard and 2006 NBA finals MVP had an Ossatron procedure performed Tuesday, and will be limited to only non-contact exercise for the next 30 days. The 20-minute treatment came only one day after the Heat announced Wade would miss the remainder of the season to rest the surgically repaired joint, which has bothered him for months. An Ossatron machine provides patients with a high-powered form of shockwave therapy, and has been used to treat injuries such as plantar fasciitis and tennis elbow when other more conventional treatments fail to bring relief. Several athletes, including Heat players Alonzo Mourning and Chris Quinn, have had Ossatron treatments in the past. Wade finished the season averaging 24.5 points, currently fifth-best in the NBA.

Clippers sign ex-Heat PG Parker

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Smush Parker, released by the Miami Heat earlier this week, signed a contract with the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday. Terms weren't announced. Parker, a 6-foot-4 guard, played in only nine games for the Heat this season, averaging 4.8 points, 1.7 assists and 2.1 rebounds. He had been on paid leave since an incident Nov. 27 with a Miami valet parking attendant. Before signing with the Heat, Parker played two seasons for the Los Angeles Lakers, appearing in all 82 games both years, starting all but two of 164 games, and averaging 11.3 points. He has averaged 9.2 points, 2.8 assists and 2.5 rebounds in 255 career games. Parker also has played for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Detroit Pistons and Phoenix Suns. He left Fordham in 2002 after his sophomore year and wasn't chosen in the NBA draft.

Bucks' Yi out for 5th straight game

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee Bucks forward Yi Jianlian sat out Wednesday night's game against the Utah Jazz, missing his fifth straight game with a right wrist injury. Bucks coach Larry Krystkowiak said Yi was feeling better at Wednesday morning's shootaround, but did not know when he might return to the court. Krystkowiak said Yi originally sustained the injury in January but played through it for nearly two months—a factor, the coach said, in Yi's recent drop in productivity and a sign of his character. "He wasn't a guy who was saying, 'I'm injured, I'm this, I'm that,'" Krystkowiak said. "So I think that speaks a lot for him." Yi's injury status is of particular concern to Chinese basketball officials, who want to make sure he's ready to play in the Olympics in August. China's biggest basketball star, Yao Ming, already is out for the season with a stress fracture in his foot but has assured Chinese fans he'll be ready for the Olympics. Injured Bucks guard Mo Williams (abdomen) and forward Desmond Mason (knee) also missed Wednesday's game and are

Caron Butler set to return from hip injury

WASHINGTON (AP)—All-Star forward Caron Butler appears set to celebrate his birthday with a return to the lineup Thursday for the Washington Wizards.

"Caron is going to be probable, so we add a little 'Tough Juice' to the line-up," said coach Eddie Jordan, referring to Butler's nickname. "And we'll see how it goes."

Butler has missed 16 straight games and 19 of the last 21 because of a hip

injury. He was originally diagnosed with a strained hip flexor, but an MRI discovered a small labral tear of the left hip joint. The injury also caused Butler to miss the All-Star game.

The Wizards host LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday, which happens to be the day Butler turns 28. Jordan said Butler will start if able to play.

"I've got a nice rhythm. I've got a couple of practices under my belt. I'm

not feeling any symptoms," Butler said after Wednesday's practice. "It's a big day with my birthday. Things seem to be really flowing right now, so tomorrow would be a great game to come back."

Butler returned to practice Monday. Other than some tightness in the groin after Tuesday's shootaround, he said he's been fine.

"If I wake up tomorrow and feel the same way, I'll definitely be on the court," he said.

Butler's return would come none too soon for the banged-up Wizards. Gilbert Arenas (knee) and Etan Thomas (recovering from heart surgery) are practicing but still aren't ready to play.

Antawn Jamison (back strain) and Antonio Daniels (sprained left thumb) were sore after Tuesday's win over Milwaukee, but both are listed as probable for Thursday. Oleksiy Pecherov is expected to return after missing one game with a sore right foot.

John Daly misses pro-am time at Bay Hill



AP
John Daly waits to hit from off the first fairway of the Waialae Country Club during the first round of the Sony Open golf tournament in Honolulu, in this Jan. 10, 2008 file photo.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—John Daly woke up Wednesday morning to read that swing coach Butch Harmon fired him. Then he got a phone call when he was at the entrance to Bay Hill letting him know he had been kicked out of the Arnold Palmer Invitational for missing the pro-am.

"Hasn't been a good day," Daly told The Associated Press. "This is the last thing I needed in my life. I feel like I let Arnold down."

5 ejected in Yankees-Rays game



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Both benches cleared

during the second inning of a spring training game between the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday, leading to the ejections of two players and two coaches.

The teams, meeting four days after Yankees manager Joe Girardi complained about Tampa Bay's aggressive play after a home-plate collision that injured catcher Francisco Cervellio, had been warned before the game that the umpires would have little tolerance for any further problems.

The benches cleared after New York's Shelley Duncan slid into Rays second baseman Akinori Iwamura with the spikes raised after singling off third baseman Evan Longoria's glove and

The wild ride of golf's most unpredictable figure took another hairpin turn when Daly said he was given wrong information that caused him to miss his tee time, starting a bizarre chain reaction that knocked out two other players from the tournament.

The tour has a policy that anyone missing the pro-am is ineligible to play in the tournament.

Daly, who received a sponsor's exemption, played a Monday pro-am

trying to stretch the hit into a double.

Duncan was immediately tossed. Tampa Bay's Jonny Gomes was ejected, too, after racing in from right field and barreling into Duncan as other players poured onto the field. No punches appeared to have been thrown as order was restored.

Yankee third base coach Bobby Meacham and hitting coach Kevin Long also were ejected by the umpiring crew, which met with Girardi and Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon before the game.

New York left-hander Heath Phillips was ejected during the first inning after one of his pitches appeared to graze Longoria's shirt. The Rays had already scored two runs and three hits in the inning.

Girardi protested Phillips' ejection and both benches were warned.

at Bay Hill and said he was asked to play the Wednesday pro-am, too. He requested a morning start, then called Tuesday to find out his tee time. A woman in the tournament office told him 9:47 a.m., which instead was his starting time for the first round.

"I didn't even know that was my Thursday tee time," Daly said. "I should have looked into it. It stinks for me. I want to do anything I can for the tournament as a sponsor exemption. I wanted to meet the people I was playing with in the pro-am. I love Arnold Palmer to death. I called and talked to him and apologized."

"And the thing that upsets me is I cost Nick O'Hern and Ryuuji Imada, so now I got these guys mad at me, too."

Imada and O'Hern were alternates for the pro-am, and both thought they were assigned to the afternoon group. Instead, they were the first two names called when Daly didn't show, and when neither was around, they also were disqualified from the \$5.8 million event.

O'Hern lives only five minutes away at Isleworth and was furious to learn he would not be eligible.

"When I should have been on the tee, I was giving my girls breakfast," O'Hern said. "I thought common sense would have prevailed. This is a tough one to take. Unfortunately, we got caught up in John's snowball effect."

The snowball is starting to look like an avalanche.

Daly lost his full PGA Tour card two years ago and relies mainly on sponsor exemptions. In seven events this year, he has missed the cut three times and withdrew from the Bob Hope Classic, where he was spotted at several after-hour parties.

His best finish was a tie for 60th in Mexico, an opposite-field event.

The Bay Hill mix-up comes one day after Harmon, one golf's most renowned swing coaches, said he was done working with Daly because the two-time major champion appeared more interested in drinking than working on his game.

"My whole goal for him was he's got to show me golf is the most important thing in his life," Harmon said. "And the most important thing in his life is getting drunk."

Harmon said Daly's behavior last week at the PODS Championship was enough to end the short-lived relationship.

Daly spent a 2 1/2-hour rain delay during the first round in a Hooters corporate tent behind the 17th green at Innisbrook. He was 3 over, and when play resumed, he had Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Jon Gruden caddie for him the rest of the day. After missing the cut with rounds of 77-80, Daly spent Saturday at the Hooters "Owl's Nest" next to the 17th hole, drinking beer, mingling with fans and signing autographs, including one on the back of a woman's pants.

"I just wish Butch had called me before getting slapped in the face," Daly said. "I love Butch to death. I still think he's the greatest coach out there. I just told him, 'Don't always believe what you read in the paper.' I texted him, 'All I wish you'd done is call me.' It was a shock to me."

As for his escapade at the Owl's Nest?

Daly said he thought he was doing

the tournament a favor by drumming up business at the raucous tent.

"I signed about a thousand hats," Daly said. "I love Hooters. I had a few beers and some chicken wings. It was Saturday. I wasn't even playing in the tournament."

Daly has been on a downward spiral since losing a playoff to Tiger Woods in 2005 at Harding Park in a World Golf Championship event. He injured his ribs last year at the Honda Classic when he tried to stop his powerful swing upon hearing the click of a fan's camera, and Daly recently said he was contemplating a lawsuit against the tournament, which gave him a sponsor's exemption.

"My life is upside-down right now," Daly said. "No matter what I do, it's wrong. I'm thinking of writing a new song. I'll call it, 'I guess it's my fault, even when it's not my fault.'"

Daly said he played Tuesday at a nearby course with Robert Gamez, who helped sort out his putting problems.

"I was looking forward to a great week," Daly said. "I've always had great success at Bay Hill. I usually don't ever miss the cut. I called Arnold, and said he feels just as bad about it. I saw him Monday and he gave me a big ol' hug and said, 'Thanks for being here.'"

Success at Bay Hill is in the eye of the Wild Thing.

Daly has played 14 times at Palmer's event, and his best finish is a tie for 10th. He has missed the cut three times, and four times shot in the 80s in the final round. One of those scores came in 1998, when Daly hit six balls in the water on the par-5 sixth and made an 18.

"I hope things get better," Phil Mickelson said. "I think we all do."

No. 25 Marquette beats Seton Hall



NEW YORK (AP)—Jerel McNeal scored 21 points and No. 25 Marquette held Seton Hall scoreless over the final five minutes of a 67-54 victory Wednesday night in the opening round of the Big East tournament.

The sixth-seeded Golden Eagles (23-8) will play third-seeded and 14th-ranked Notre Dame in the quarterfinals on Thursday night.

Both teams struggled offensively with Marquette shooting 34.4 percent (22-for-64), while Seton Hall shot 33.9 percent (20-for-59). The Pirates' plan worked well for 35 minutes as they were within 57-54 before ending the game by coming up empty on their last 10 possessions. The Golden Eagles closed with a 10-0 run.

Jamar Nutter and Eugene Harvey both had 15 points for Seton Hall (17-15), which lost its fourth straight overall and third this season

to Marquette. This was the Pirates' fourth straight first-round loss in the Big East and they have lost five in a row at Madison Square Garden.

Lazar Hayward had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Marquette, while Dominic

James added 11 points. The Golden Eagles finished with a 56-37 rebound advantage, including 25-13 on the offensive end. All three of Seton Hall's big men fouled out.

Reserve guard Maurice Acker had five points but they all came in the final 5:36. He hit Marquette's only 3-pointer of the second half to give the Golden Eagles a 57-53 lead, and his driving jumper as the shot clock expired made it 62-54 with 2:38 to go.

Marquette, which struggled from the field in the previous two games with Seton Hall, finished 3-for-17 from 3-point range.

Brian Laing, the Pirates' leading scorer with a 19.0 average, finished with six points on 3-for-10 shooting. Seton Hall was 4-for-20 from behind the arc.



AP
Marquette's Lawrence Blackledge reacts after scoring against Seton Hall in the first half during a first-round game of the Big East Conference men's basketball tournament Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Giants sign QB David Carr



Eli Manning and the New York Giants have a new backup quarterback.

David Carr signed Wednesday in a move that gives the Super Bowl champions an experienced backup who like Manning was a No. 1 pick overall.

Terms were not immediately available.

"I have a lot of calluses," Carr said. "I'm like an old carpenter I've been through it. If you let that stuff affect you, you're not going to be able to do your job. One of the reasons I'm excited about coming here is they protect the quarterback well and they have playmakers on the outside."

Taken first by Houston in the 2002 draft, Carr's career has faltered in recent seasons. He was released by the Texans after the 2006 season and signed a two-year, \$6 million deal last year with the Carolina Panthers.

The Panthers released him after this

past season.

Carr had a 58.3 passer rating with just three touchdown passes and five interceptions after replacing the injured Jake Delhomme. Carr was eventually replaced by 44-year-old Vinny Testaverde and then undrafted rookie Matt Moore.

Carr will compete with Anthony Wright and Jared Lorenzen for the backup job to Manning, the No. 1 overall pick in 2004.

The former Fresno State product has played in 82 career games with 79 starts. He started all 16 games four times in his five seasons with the Texans, including the last three.

Careerwise, Carr has completed 1,316 of 2,206 passes for 14,026 yards, 62 touchdowns and 70 interceptions. His career passer rating is 74.4. He has been sacked 262 times, including a record 76 for 411 yards in losses as a rookie in '04.

"I think any player coming into a situation like this has to prove something,"

Carr said. "I have to work just as hard or harder than the guys there. They've been to the top. They won a Super Bowl. They don't need our help."

Joining the Giants will reunite Carr with quarterbacks coach Chris Palmer, his offensive coordinator in his first four years in Houston.

"I'm excited to meet up with Chris again," Carr said. "That's really the main reason I came up here. He has the best feel for what I'm doing. He knows what's best as far as what my mechanics should be when I throw the football."

Giants coach Tom Coughlin called Carr a talented, athletic player.

"We look forward to working with him on the fundamentals of the game," Coughlin said. "We do have some technical things to work on, but we are anxious to work with him in our program. If we can place him in a positive environment, perhaps he can reclaim some of the things that people saw to draft him in the first round." (AP)

lowing Taylor's shooting, he said.

"And why did you guys do this?" asked Miami-Dade police Det. Juan Segovia.

"Nobody can find out who did it," Rivera replied.

Another suspect, 20-year-old Jason Scott Mitchell, said he thought about coming forward when he found out it was Taylor who had been shot. Mitchell said he was told the day after the shooting by another suspect, Charles Wardlow.

But there are hints throughout of what happened and what led up to the Nov. 26 shooting, which authorities say took place in a botched robbery attempt at Taylor's Miami home. Taylor, an All-Pro safety for the Redskins, died the next day from heavy blood loss.

Rivera, like the other suspects from the Fort Myers area, told detectives there were five people on the trip that night, although only four are charged. All five burned their shirts, gloves and other clothes after returning home fol-

Sundquist out as Broncos' GM

DENVER (AP)—Ted Sundquist is out as the Denver Broncos' general manager.

In a brief statement Wednesday, coach Mike Shanahan said it was time for the organization to move forward and look at new directions.

"I will say I'm disappointed," Sundquist said in a phone interview. "I've been with the club for 16-plus years."

Asked if he was fired, Sundquist said, "I didn't resign."

Shanahan said he was "grateful to Ted for all his hard work and efforts on behalf of the Broncos for the past 16 years."

Other members of the Broncos' management, including director of player personnel Jim Goodman and assistant general manager Jeff Goodman will have increased roles in football operations, while Joe Ellis, chief operating officer of the Broncos, will perform operational and administrative issues.

"I started in an entry-level job here—in the front lobby answering phones and sorting mail," Sundquist said. "I love the organization and the people. I felt like every day I came into work and did my best to bring the fans of Denver a championship. I envisioned finishing my career here in Denver and being a GM here in Denver until my adult working life was over."

The Broncos limped to a 7-9 record last season, missing the playoffs for a second straight year. Since the end of the season, Denver defensive boss Jim Bates resigned and the team has

released receiver Javon Walker and linebacker Ian Gold.

Sundquist didn't want to speculate whether the team's recent play had anything to do with his departure.

"You'd have to ask Mike," he said. "I don't know."

Sundquist became general manager in 2002 after 10 years in a player personnel role for the team.

Denver reached the playoffs three times under Sundquist's watch, including an appearance in the AFC championship game against Pittsburgh following the 2005 season.

The 45-year-old Sundquist supervised pro and college scouting, and was responsible for salary cap and contract analysis.

In his role as general manager, Sundquist helped Denver land free agents such as John Lynch, Daniel Graham and Travis Henry. He also made trades such as the one with the Washington Redskins to acquire Champ Bailey, and another to obtain Dre' Bly from the Detroit Lions.

Sundquist also facilitated a draft-day deal with St. Louis in 2006, allowing Denver to trade up four spots to take Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler with the 11th overall pick.

"I think we took advantage of every aspect and opportunity of acquiring talent across the league, whether it was through trades or free agents," Sundquist said. "We as an organization have a great amount of respect across the league. I'd like to think I helped with that."

Taylor suspect statements released

MIAMI (AP)—The alleged shooter in the murder of Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor told police he and the other suspects burned their clothes in an attempt to cover up the crime.

The statement by 17-year-old Eric Rivera Jr. and those by two other suspects were released Wednesday by state prosecutors at the request of The Associated Press and other news outlets. All three statements are heavily redacted on a judge's orders, and do not contain outright confessions to the crime.

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Goals aplenty in men's league games

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2008 Men's Winter Football League had its most productive day in terms of offensive output as Sunday's matches at the Oleai Sports Complex Field netted a total of 29 goals scored.

SGA March Ace this Sunday



The Saipan Golf Association will hold its March Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, March 16, at the Marianas Country Club n Marpi.

Check-in time for the club's third monthly competition of the year is 8:30am with tee time set 51 minutes later at 9:21am.

In related news, SGA is en-

NOBLE

From Page 44

course to be challenging but not that hard compared to XTERRA. "The XTERRA course was brutal and muddy. I even crashed seven times but I am free of major bumps and bruises. Maybe because the ground was soft. Good thing I survived [XTERRA]. It's tough but it is a

KAIPAT'S

From Page 44

ning four consecutive games dating back from Feb. 13 to end their season with a 7-5 mark to currently occupy third place.

The international hotel chain could slide down to fourth place depending on the outcome of Sunday's scheduled match between defending champion Aqua Resort Club (7-4) and Hafadai Beach Hotel (3-6).

Aqua Resort closes out its campaign in the HANMI Cup—which is being sponsored by Titans Chivas Life, PTI, Coca-Cola Bottlers Micronesia, and Western Sales Trading Company—against Hafadai at 3pm, while Fiesta-Grand clashes with PIC for the last time in the regular season in the 6pm contest.

Saipan World Resort and Aquarius Beach Tower will face each other in the 4:30pm second game as they try to end their respective HANMI Cup seasons

FC Arirang led the offensive onslaught with an 11-2 triumph over Ol'Aces with Yoon Won scoring the most goals for his team even exceeding the three-goal hat trick.

Yong Won had five goals, while Jae Won had a hat trick with three of his own. Teammate Jin Guan Zui added two more, while Young Jin, Jun Woo, and Sang Ho had one each.

couraging members to participate in the 6th Annual Mt. Carmel School Golf Tournament set for this Saturday, March 15, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course. The fee is \$100 and show time is 6:30am. Tee time is scheduled precisely at 7:30am.

Veteran golfers Mariano Fajardo and Joe Sablan have bragging rights for the first two month of SGA's season as they

lot of fun and Saipan has a beautiful course."

The 2004 XTERRA amateur champion added, "The heat and wind direction will be a factor [in Tagaman]. The bike has a lot of hills and the temperature will be rising as the day goes on."

Vance, who placed third in the 25-29 division of the 2005 ITU World Championship, said the run would be much easier.

on a winning note.

Kaipat's 14 markers in the fourth quarter helped PIC rally back from an eight-point deficit in the early minutes of the final canto to help secure the win. He finished with 22 points, five rebounds, and a game-high six steals to provide the needed support from Derrick Tudela's all-around game.

Tudela paced PIC with 26 points, 11 rebounds, three assists, and one steal. He had 10 points in the third quarter to keep the game close. Marino Pungilug added 12 points, six rebounds, one assist, and one steal.

Magno Abaya had a breakout game, scoring a season-high 26 points while grabbing 10 rebounds. Bernard Aquino and Mike Umali combined for 28 points and 12 rebounds.

Edmark Mendoza had 13 markers, 11 rebounds, three assists, one steal, and blocked two shots while Krisel Arreza chipped in 10 points and grabbed four rebounds.

In the second game, Mike Olaitiman and Pete Iguel fired

Camacho relieved him in the bottom of the third after Kabur scored three runs.

Camacho came in when Hector Efraim was about to bat and he forced the Kabur second baseman to a sacrifice fly for the first out. Poland Masaharu reached first base safely on a throwing error by catcher Henry Iguel.

Masaharu, however, was left stranded on base when Camacho struck out Payton Sakuma and forced Roy Regual to an in-

field fly to end the inning.

Camacho pitched four scoreless innings after that limiting Kabur to four hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Joshua Muna pitched the eighth for the Falcons, while Kelly Helliew came in the ninth and was tagged by Kabur with three runs on two hits with no strikeouts and two walks but could not get the final out.

Helliew, after Dennis Ren-guil scored on an RBI single by

Noutilainen leading the attack.

Thoehasaket made four goals while Noutilainen added three. Yellow cards were also given to Lucas Knecht of the Independents and MFC's Joe Miller.

Inter defeated Onwel in a tight contest, escaping with a 4-2 decision with two goals coming from Masatoshi Otsuka.

Peter Loken and Arkie Reusora added one goal each for Inter, which now holds the top spot with a 4-1-1 win-loss-draw record.

It was a tight contest right from the opening kick as both teams battled each other for ball possession and scoring opportunity before Inter managed to sneak in two goals in the final minutes of the second half to beat their rivals.

Jessie Phonsutjith and Bunsong Srisomkhieo scored the goals for Onwel, while Inter's Dale Roberts was given a warning.

row. "Andrew [Noble] is a very tough competitor. He is a smart racer what he lacks in age he makes up in mental focus, commitment, and desire."

"I am just a baby compared to [Noble]. I am just only in my fifth year in triathlon," ended Vance, who placed third in the 2006 Ironman Florida and eighth overall in last year's XTERRA World Championship in Maui, Hawaii.

ted 17 more. Jhun Camacho and Aries Cordero ended up with 12 and 11 apiece.

First Game

Pacific Islands Club 86 – Tudela 26, Kaipat 22, Pungilug 12, Abuy 9, Tolentino 8, Ngeskebei 7, Swain 3.

Hyatt Regency Saipan 82 – Magno 26, Aquino 14, Umali 14, Mendoza 13. Arreza 10, Rodriguez 3, Vargas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-16, 41-42, 57-69, 86-82.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Dado Vistal

Second Game

Hafadai Beach Hotel 103 – Olaitiman 36, Iguel 34, Calayag 14, guinto 8, Roque 7, Gokesan 4.

Aquarius Beach Tower 85 – Trajano 24, Barbo 21, Garcia 17, Camacho 12, Cordero 11.

Scoring by quarters: 28-21, 48-43, 68-66, 103-85.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Manny Sitchon.

Leo Bobai, walked Theo Minor to put the winning run at second base. He was pulled out when Landon Martin was up to bat.

Hans Pua replaced him who got the final out when he forced Martin to an infield fly that was caught by first baseman B.J. Sablan to preserve the win.

Iguel went 2-for-5 for the Falcons scoring two runs with a double and three RBIs. His two-RBI double in the fifth highlighted the Falcons' seven-run scoring splurge.

Four teams win as volleyball action resumes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Action in the 2008 Indoor Winter Volleyball League resumed Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with four teams getting the needed wins to shore up their playoff chances.

Games were called off for a week to allow officials of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association appoint a new league coordinator since former NMIVA president Jon Cramer left the island last weekend.

Fanians kept pace with league-leading Menudo after a 25-15, 25-21, 8-15 win over Home Boyz, while CH-Hammer improved its chances of grabbing a playoff seat after a 25-14, 26-24, 15-17 triumph against Ma Numel'u.

Beach Jammers, meanwhile, foiled the Islanders' chances to barge into the Top 4 of the standings after scoring a 25-16, 19-12, 15-12 decision.

The match between Ol'Aces

and No Fear will be rescheduled at a later date.

Menudo, which drew a bye, remains on top of the standings with a 10-3 card followed by Fanians' 9-4 record. No Fear and Ol'Aces are tied with similar 8-4 marks while Islanders and CH-Hammer both have the same 7-7 slates.

Home Boyz (6-8) is at seventh spot, while Beach Jammers (3-10) and Ma Numel'u (1-12) round up the standings.

In the lone women's match, YoYo's swept Beach Jammers, 25-8, 25-14, 15-12 to continue its winning ways after handing previously undefeated Pikan Gaga its first loss.

YoYo's now has a 7-4 card to remain in second place behind Pikan Gaga's 9-1 slate. Seikid (4-5), Beach Jammers (3-7), and Ta Chagi (1-7) complete the standings.

YoYo's handed Pikan Gaga its first loss, snapping their opponents' nine-game winning run on Feb. 28.

YoYo's won a tightly fought first set, 25-23, and were trailing Pikan Gaga, 20-23, in the second when their opponents forfeited the match.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	51	12	.810	–
Toronto	34	30	.531	17 1/2
Philadelphia	31	34	.477	21
New Jersey	27	38	.415	25
New York	19	46	.292	33

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	42	24	.636	–
Washington	31	32	.492	9 1/2
Atlanta	26	38	.406	15
Charlotte	24	40	.375	17
Miami	11	52	.175	29 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Detroit	46	18	.719	–
Cleveland	37	28	.569	9 1/2
Chicago	26	38	.406	20
Indiana	25	39	.391	21
Milwaukee	23	42	.354	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	44	20	.688	–
San Antonio	44	20	.688	–
New Orleans	43	20	.683	1/2
Dallas	42	23	.646	2 1/2
Memphis	15	49	.234	29

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	43	23	.652	–
Denver	38	26	.594	4
Portland	34	31	.523	8 1/2
Seattle	16	49	.246	26 1/2
Minnesota	14	49	.222	27 1/2

Pacific Division

Big Kahuna wants XTERRA series for Pacific

XTERRA Global Tour managing director Dave "Big Kahuna" Nicholas would like to have an XTERRA series in the Pacific involving New Zealand, Australia, Guam, and of course Saipan.

DAN KIMBALL



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

XTERRA
SAIPAN

If he had it his way, XTERRA Global Tour managing director Dave "Big Kahuna" Nicholas would like to have an XTERRA series in the Pacific involving New Zealand, Australia, Guam, and of course Saipan.

The affable head of the organization that put the extreme in the sport of triathlon said the time to promote the Pacific as an XTERRA series is now, especially with the U.S. dollar at an all-time low.

"I tried to get everyone to see this, but it has not happened. With the Euro and other currencies so strong we need to take advantage of this and get the world to come. We need to give them an excuse. By tying Guam/Saipan and then Australia and New Zealand we are giving our 30,000 athletes worldwide a grand chance to come to the Pacific and visit, compete and see new and exciting places. I am hoping for 2009 that we

can get everyone to agree on a schedule and make it happen," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

While Nicholas and XTERRA Global Tour support services manager Tyson Pualoa didn't stick around to watch Andrew Noble of Australia and Renata Bucher of Switzerland top last Saturday's 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship, Nicholas said the event remains and will always be the crown jewel of the Global Tour.

"It is the people and how unique the whole place is [that makes it special]. Because you live here, it becomes like the proverb 'you cannot see the forest because of the trees.' We see Saipan differently than you. As do the athletes. If you came to the World Championship at Maui, I would guarantee more people talk about someday coming to Saipan to do that race than anywhere. There is nothing tangible... Saipan is an attitude. That is why I truly think it a shame to see

this event go away. It will be a big loss for the people of Saipan," he said before hopping to a plane back to Maui the Monday before XTERRA Saipan.

Nicholas and Pualoa only oversaw the laying out of the XTERRA Saipan trail after the Marianas Visitors Authority downgraded its agreement with Team Unlimited from a full-fledged \$350,000 organizing gig to a \$25,000 licensing agreement. That pretty much left Tagaman organizer, Taga Inc., in charge of the off-road multi-sport event this year.

Aside from XTERRA Global Tour's signature multi-sport races, Nicholas said he is proud to see that its trail running series has literally hit the ground running the past several years.

"Our latest growth area is in our trail running series. We have seen that event double in three years to the point where we will have races in about six different



Nicholas

countries and now a World Championship on Oahu in December," he said.

Nicholas said the trail running series mimic the XTERRA triathlons in design and attitude, "but is just all about running."

He added: "No swim, no bike. Distance is half marathon or 13 miles (21 kilometers). But just like XTERRA the distance is not critical because Mother Nature tells you how long a trail is. You cannot just turn around on the road and head back, so the races are anywhere from 18K to 25K and some even longer," he said.

Nicholas said while XTERRA is becoming a household name in Asia and the Pacific, organizers can't help but become choosy when deciding to add a country or a locale to the XTERRA Global Tour.

"We are growing in the Pacific with strong inquiries from Korea, Thailand, and Malaysia. It could break open quickly if we find the right situations. We do not simply make an XTERRA because somebody says, 'come here.' We need confidence in the local operators that the job can be done properly," he said.

Stewart pushes back 20K Ocean Swim to April

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Saipan Swim Club head coach Michael Stewart has pushed back the Inaugural 20K Ocean Swim originally scheduled on March 30, a Sunday. Interested swimmers can still join since the event has been pushed back to April 13.

The first-ever 20K Ocean Swim will start from Wing Beach and ends at Pacific Islands Club Beach.

A pre-race registration and meeting will be held on April 9, Wednesday, with the time and venue to be announced at a later date.

Stewart also released the following requirements for those who will be competing in the Ocean Swim. All participants must undergo screening and must be approved fit to compete by Stewart.

All swimmers must also have a personal kayaker that will assist them during the ocean swim. The swimmer and kayaker must also attend the pre-race meeting on April 9.

The entrance fee for the event is yet to be determined while a two-athlete relay team will also be allowed. More details will follow.

On March 2, Sunday, 85 swimmers joined the 30th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim with Manukai Athletic Club of Guam's Danielle Atoigue winning the 600-meter distance, while SSC's Maxi Braig topped the 1,000m swim.

Benjie Schulte of Tarakito of Guam finished first in the 1,300m swim with Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong winning the boys' 2.5-kilometer swim with Sarah Johnson finishing as the top female finisher.

For more information about the Inaugural 20K Ocean Swim, call Stewart at 287-9474.

6th Annual Mt. Carmel golf tourney tomorrow



The 6th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament will tee off tomorrow, March 15, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Trophies and gift prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 in the six divisions up for grabs—Championship, Category A, Category B, Category C, Seniors, and Ladies.

The awards ceremony and banquet will be held following the tournament at the Kagman golf course.

Registration for the 6th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament begins at 6:30am and tee time is an hour later at 7:30am.

Players are requested to donate \$100, which is inclusive of green/cart fee and ticket to the awards banquet.

Last year during the 5th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament, Jess Wabol ruled the Championship Flight with a two-under par 70. He beat the likes of Jeff Taylor (71) and Adam Hardwicke (73).

Joey Dela Cruz (A Flight), then congressman and now House Speaker Arnold Palacios (B Flight), David Santos (C Flight) Terry Tudela (Ladies Flight), and Juan Lizama Babauta (Seniors Flight) were the other winners of the fundraising golf event held May 12, 2007.

For more information about the 6th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament for the island's only Catholic school, call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 and Margaret DelaCruz at 235-1251.

The tournament is sponsored by the Mount Carmel School Board of Directors. (Mark Rabago)

Bicol Express zoom to Monday Night title

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bicol Express players were awarded their individual championship trophies last Monday after topping the 5th season of the PBA-Budweiser Monday Night League.

In a simple ceremony held at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose, team members Raymond Angeles, Carlos Ballesteros, Paul Bea, Toti Limpin, Rey Madrilejos, and Edwin Guzman were handed their hardware and \$400 check for helping Bicol Express zoom to the top of the standings with a 45-27 win-loss slate.

Super Fafa finished second with a 41.5-30.5 record with Nila's Saloon taking third, a game behind at 40.5-31.5. The two teams cashed out with \$275 and \$200.

Completing the Top 5 were My Local Connection (38-34) and JET Holdings (37-35) with the two teams pocketing \$125 and \$75, respectively.

A total of 10 teams took part in the Monday Night League that ended last March 3. The other five were Zimbuka, Team Familia/Tudela Ent., Super Fafa, SBC, CIC-AON, and Admaran Int'l.

In the individual awards, Robert Talavera of Super Fafa and Lynn Teregeyo of Team Familia topped the high average for men and women with averages of 204.09 and 173.53, respectively. Talavera pocketed \$35 and Teregeyo \$25.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bicol Express members Toti Limpin, Rey Madrilejos, Paul Bea, Raymond Angeles, and Edwin Guzman pose with their trophies in the awards ceremony of the 5th season of the PBA-Budweiser Monday Night League held last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

Limpin, meanwhile, joined Zimbuka's Rose Abejo as most improved bowlers after hiking their averages by 19.4 and 14.97 pinfalls, respectively. They won \$20 and \$15.

Percy Omechalang of My Local Connection and Mario Mayuga of CIC-AON were numero uno in the high game scratch with their 267 roll-offs, while Gina Sablan of CIC AON took the prize for the women with her 222.

Limpin was without peer in the high game with handicap with his 299, followed by CIC-AON's Lito Teodoro's 282. Mayanne McKenzie of Zimbuka topped the women with her 257.

Raul Dumapit of Super Fafa was without peer in the high series scratch with his 709, followed by Angeles' 689. Teregeyo topped the women's

with her 613.

Limpin ruled the high series with handicap with his 733, followed by a triple tie among Angeles, Omechalang, and Chester Bai of Super Fafa who all posted a series of 722. Teregeyo again won in the women's side with her 694.

In the team special awards, Super Fafa won the high game scratch (886) and high series scratch (2,447), while CIC-AON took home the high game with handicap (932) and the high series with handicap (2,625).

Team and individual prizes ranged from \$15 to \$40 in the 5th season of the PBA-Budweiser Monday Night League. The league was organized by the Philippine Bowling Association and sponsored by MARPAC.



Big Kahuna wants Xterra series for Pacific

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Saipan Tribune Sports

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Rockets top Hawks for 20th straight win

The Houston Rockets became the third team in NBA history to win 20 consecutive games, tying for the league's second-longest winning streak with an 83-75 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Noble, Vance gear up for Tagaman

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Defending champion Andrew Noble of Australia says he is fit and ready for tomorrow's 19th Tagaman Triathlon, while Xterra Saipan Championship runner-up and his expected foil Jim Vance is not sure about his chances.

Noble, who is also eyeing his second straight PIC Double crown, says he is physically and psychologically ready to challenge the grueling 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run across Saipan's flat roads and rolling hills.

The PIC Double is awarded to the participant with the best combined times of the Xterra Saipan Championship and Saturday's Tagaman.

"I feel confident and better than last year. I feel relaxed, recharge, and just kicking back here at [Pacific Islands Club]. I hope to win on Saturday," said Noble in an interview after a short swim off PIC.

He said that he sees no problems with his fitness level on Tagaman after his Xterra win. "I suffered no injuries in Xterra. I just felt a bit tired last Saturday for overtraining myself and I just arrived one day before the race and got lost when I tried it."

Noble said that last week's rain made the Xterra course more difficult and challenging. "The course was all muddy and it sticks to your tires. I was very careful when I rode my bike and



Defending Tagaman champion Andrew Noble of Australia, right, poses with American pro Jim Vance at the Pacific Islands Club lobby after testing the Tagaman course yesterday.

at times I walked to avoid crashing. The mud really sticks to your tires and it makes it more difficult to go up hill with that kind of situation," said Noble.

"Good thing [organizers] made the start time two hours early from the previous year so it is not that hot when it comes to the bike and run portions of the race."

Aside from Vance, Noble sees last year's runner-up Masayuki Matsumaru of Chiba, Japan, and Korean Han Seok-Joo as most likely to push him to the limit on Saturday. "Jim [Vance] is a good racer in the longer distances and surely he is a threat. There is also a strong field from Japan and Korea that has just arrived."

Noble has been training everyday and tested the Tagaman course a number of times after winning Xterra Saipan. "I've done biking, running and studied the course to prepare myself."

He said that he also aims to lower his run time this year. "I hope to break the 50-minute mark. Last year I finished the run in 51 minutes [and 19 seconds]. I hope to do better this year."

Vance, meanwhile, said he is still sizing himself up before Tagaman after suffering a minor injury with his left thigh and calf muscles while training last Tuesday. "I have not done much training after that and did not push myself hard to prepare for [tomorrow]. I hope to be ready and have a better performance."

"I did some swimming exercise while undergoing therapy with my thigh and calf [muscle]. I've done some stretching and rested it for the big day."

He said that he has expected the bike leg of the Tagaman

See NOBLE on Page 42

Late-inning surge lifts WSR past Dandan

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A scoring surge in the last three innings lifted the girls team of the William S. Reyes

Kingfishers to a 10-6 triumph over the Dandan Tottot in yesterday's game in the 2nd Annual Elementary School Fast-pitch Softball League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The Kingfishers scored a total of eight runs in the final three innings to hand Dandan its second straight loss.

The Tottot also committed nine errors in the entire game with WSR scoring twice in two of those turnovers in the fourth inning.

Pitcher Annalisa Blas went 2-for-3 with two singles, two runs, and four stolen bases for WSR. She also held Dandan to one unearned run for three innings before being replaced by Esther Williams in the bottom of the fourth..

Blas pitched for three innings no hits with four strikeouts and no walks. Williams allowed Dandan to five runs—two earned—on four hits in the final two innings before finally getting the needed three outs in the bottom of the fifth.

Four errors in the fifth and sixth innings nearly cost WSR the win as Dandan tried to rally back in the sixth high-

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Kaipat's 4th quarter burst leads PIC to victory



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Butch Kaipat erupted for 14 points in the fourth quarter to help Pacific Islands Club escape with an 86-82 win over Hyatt Regency Saipan in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada gymnasium.

It was PIC's third straight win after suffering a shocking 84-100 loss to Saipan World Resort last Feb. 10 to improve their record to 8-3, which is second best behind league-leading Fiesta Grand's 10-1 slate.

Hyatt Regency suffered its second straight loss after win-

See KAIPAT'S on Page 42

Falcons claw Kabur in BSML

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The defending champion Falcons of Tanapag used a seven-run, fifth-inning rally to pull off a 13-7 victory against Kabur in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League on Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The win was the second straight for the back-to-back title-seeking Falcons to share the top spot with the vastly improved Korean Dreams and dangerous Rock Steady, which was playing at press time.

Results of the Dreams-Rock

Steady match were not available as of this writing.

The D9ers (1-0) and FordRangers (1-1) are in the middle of the standings, while Kabur and Tigers, which played in the Masters Baseball League finals, suffered their second straight loss.

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Tanapag Falcons pitcher Josh Muna prepares to pitch in this file photo taken in their opening game against the Tigers in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

